

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

## Forest Hill Church

### The Tower

December 2011

Dear Friends,

We find ourselves at the start of another December and another Advent season. It is a great time of the year. Our sanctuary will be decorated for the season in stages: the greenery and hurricane lamps in the windows will appear, followed by a Jesse Tree (a new addition this year). The Advent Candle wreath will be placed on the communion table. The poinsettias will be set along the communion railing for the Festival of Lessons and Carols. Finally, for Christmas Eve the candelabras will be attached to the pews and we will gather for our annual Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. After the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night" most of the crowd will head to Fellowship Hall for what is becoming a new tradition at FHC, the after-service milk-and-cookies gathering to greet old friends.

This year, Christmas falls on a Sunday. On Christmas morning at 11:00 we will worship in the same Fellowship Hall where friends met just hours before. You may wear your pajamas and bring your favorite gift to show off!

I love this time of year. However, even with all the plans in place, I don't know if I have ever felt less prepared for the beginning of Advent. The year has passed too quickly. It seems as if summer has just ended. We haven't had any snow; it is just now starting to feel cold.

But who has ever been rightfully prepared for the birth of the baby Jesus?

Were Mary and Joseph prepared to be mother and father of the one who was to be called Messiah?

Was the inn keeper ready to host the holy family? He didn't even have a room to spare.

Were the shepherds prepared to see angels in the sky and hear the proclamation of peace to the world? They just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

It really isn't about being prepared, for the epiphanies of God come precisely at unexpected, unprepared-for moments. God comes whenever God comes. Christ is born wherever Christ is born.

My hope is that you will come to all the special services. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you had numerous moments of peaceful contemplation during this beautiful season? Don't feel bad if this season doesn't meet expectations or if you can't get to all the shopping or the decorating or the cooking. Forgive yourself if you are not prepared. God will be delivered whether or not we are looking. Salvation comes even if we don't feel it. And it might just be in the year of least preparedness that we receive the greatest surprises.

God bless you all!

John

*John Lentz  
Senior Pastor*

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Dear friends,

In adult education this Advent, we are offering a two-week course, December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, on the theme, "From Longing to Receiving." Elder Barry Hartz, one of our very talented teachers, will be leading the class.

My thoughts this past week have moved toward the season of Advent, and the idea of longing as integral to what it is to be human. As Blaise Pascal is often quoted as saying, "There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every [human] which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." Whether the quote is his exactly, the intent resonates with me. Deep within us there feels to be a desire that draws us toward God, the Divine, or Love. We long for true intimacy, we long for another one to love, and who will love us; to know and by whom we can be known. Perhaps the Creator put this longing within us in order to keep us pressing toward a deeper Truth that only can be realized when we are in a whole relationship with God, self and others. When we are at our best and our healthiest, we seek to fulfill this holy desire of being in connection with God, self and others.

In Advent, we celebrate the miraculous reality that God longs to be close to us. God longs for us to know God more fully. God longs for us to be in relationship in an unmediated way. God comes in Jesus to be fully present with us, God-with-us, Immanuel. Each of us is on a journey toward our spiritual home, I believe. Our spiritual home is where God resides, where our deepest self exists. The deepest, holiest longing within us is to be in communion with God, but we don't always realize it. Tragically, we humans often seek to fulfill the Holy longing instead with disastrous behaviors or with people that leave us unfilled and ultimately bankrupt of real love.

This Advent, as we move toward the coming of God, the birth of Jesus, I pray that each of us contemplates and pays attention to the deepest longings in our lives. That deep longing might point us in the direction of our truest desire which is to know and be known by God. The astonishing news is that we are already known, for God longed for us even before we took our first breath. May we be open to receive the good news that is already with us, and yet, is coming again.

*Check out the website* [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) *Come and see!* 3

I hope to see you in adult education on December 11 and 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

Blessings to each of you; may you be touched by the Spirit of God this Advent season.

Clover

*Clover Beal  
Associate Pastor*

## **December Adult Education**

### **Kerygma Wrap-Up and Questions for Exodus**

December 4, 9:30 am in South Hall

All Kerygma participants as well as anyone else who is interested are encouraged to attend

Discussion led by John Lentz and Clover Beal

### **"From Longing to Receiving:" An Advent Study**

December 11 & 18; 9:30 am in South Hall

This two-part study will explore the Advent texts of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Gospel lessons.

Barry Hartz will be facilitating the class sessions. All are welcome!

4 *Check out the website* [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) *Come and see!*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our children continue to be engaged in all of our Christian Education programs. The lessons, workshops, discussions and projects can all be written with the best intentions, but the teachers are the true reason these programs grow and are meaningful. Our Christian Education leaders give their time and gifts of energy and faith to help our children and youth grow into their faith. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, who have taught, led, shepherded and cared this month.

- In our nursery, thank you to Marilyn Wilk, Chris Bell and Virginia Weiss.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Joanne & Dan Shaner.
- In our Children in Worship, thank you to Diane Moyer & Jeremy Ryman.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Pat & Jim Seeders, Laurie Logan, Cameron Peters, Carol Leslie, Jane Duncan, Christina Hidek and Barry Hartz.

### **Little Explorers                      Three and Four year olds**

Susanne Peterjohn will lead this class in December. The children will explore Advent and Christmas themes. Be sure to ask your pre-schoolers about their church school lessons. It's a great way to reinforce the Bible lesson and story.

### **Children in Worship                      Older four year olds and kindergarten**

Sarah & Matt Winters will lead this class in December. The children in this age group are asked to respond to the stories they've heard through "I Wonder" questions. There is also a craft response to help them better understand the story. This month the children will hear stories about Advent.

### **Pathways to the Promise Land                      Grades 1-5**

The next rotation theme centers on the Advent theme of *Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Prophecies*. The birth of Jesus, the Son of God, marks the end of a long wait. The prophets, from Samuel to Malachi, have foretold the appearance of the Messiah who would deliver the nation of Israel its oppressors and into a New Kingdom. The birth marks the advent of this new age. The children will explore this theme with art and movement.

## Dates to Know

### **December 4                      Advent Workshop**

Come join your Forest Hill Church family to celebrate Advent with this annual intergenerational event. Lunch will be prepared and served (under the direction of Morag Keefe) by our Mid-High Youth.

### **December 18                      Cherub Choir**

Meet in sanctuary at 10:15 for practice; then sing during worship.

### **December 18                      Festival of Lessons and Carols**

Our Pathways to the Promise Land children will attend worship with their families and participate in *Festival of Lessons and Carols* service.

### **December 18                      Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**

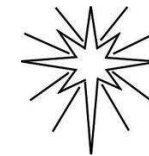
Children involved in our annual Christmas Eve pageant will be rehearsing after worship.

### **December 25                      Merry Christmas**

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education



### ***Advent and Christmas at FHC***

Dec. 4	Advent Workshop after worship
Dec. 18	Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11 am
Dec. 24	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Family Worship, 5 pm Candlelight Worship, 11 pm (music at 10:45) Milk-and-cookies reception following worship
Dec. 25	<b>Christmas:</b> No classes or choirs Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall
Jan. 1	<b>New Year's Day:</b> No classes or choirs Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall

## Music



The season of Advent, the beginning of the church year, begins November 27<sup>th</sup>. It is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child. Due to the commercial hubbub of this time in the secular world, we may sometimes wish to skip Advent all together and join our favorite radio programs by singing Christmas carols early in November. But if one honors faithfully the more meditative and preparation-minded spirit of the four Advent weeks, one may find that the actual Christmas holidays (all twelve days!) are all the more meaningful. As the pastors choose the hymns and carols during Advent, watch the progression as we gradually move, with anticipation, toward the celebration of the birth of Christ. O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Our Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place this year on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, during 11:00 am worship. The Chancel, Sine Nomine and Descant Choirs are all rehearsing for this beautiful and celebrative service. Consider inviting your non-Forest Hill friends to join you this day.

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, there will be a 5:00 pm Family Service (with the Descant Choir and young instrumentalists) and the 11:00 pm Candlelight Service (with the Chancel and Sine Nomine Choirs). There will be a fifteen-minute musical prelude before the 11:00 PM service.

During this time of belt-tightening, I've been most appreciative for gifts of choir anthems in memory or honor of a loved one. Due to the generosity of several FHC members, new music has been purchased that our sheet music fund could not cover. Labels that honor the gift are affixed to the sheet music. If this sort of gift interests you, I would be happy to discuss this with you.

I wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Anne Wilson  
Organist/Director of Music  
[annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org)

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## Youth News



*A new kind of worship  
experience for this generation*

Converge is a modern worship service that meets monthly on the second Sunday of each month at 7 pm. Converge is a collaborative effort of many churches in the Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and surrounding areas. The monthly worship services are geared for teens with a full band (drums, electric guitar, keys) and a relevant message.

**Christmas at Converge is December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at First Baptist (3630 Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Hts).** We will sing the favorite Christmas carols and celebrate the birth of our savior. Bring a new or used stuffed animal for the offering.

### **Signup for the 2012 Senior High Mission Trip to Cherokee, NC**

Our Senior Highs will spend a week in mission in Cherokee, North Carolina from July 8-14. The trip is open to current eighth graders through high school seniors. A \$100 deposit is due by January 29<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot. This is a firm deadline!! If cost is an issue, contact Kristen about scholarships.

### **Fun & Fellowship in December**

#### Youth Christmas Parties

Mid High - Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>: 6-8pm

Senior High - Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>: 5-7pm

Celebrate the holiday season with the youth group at Kristen's house (5507 Huron Road, Lyndhurst). Bring a gift (under \$10) for the white elephant gift exchange and your favorite Christmas treat to share. I'll provide the main dish.

#### Christmas Break LOCK IN

Thursday December 29<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm – Friday December 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 am

All youth are invited for a Lock-In over Christmas Break. We are joining forces with the youth group of Mayfield Church for a night of fun and games. Bring a snack to share, a sleeping bag, your favorite board game and a friend to Mayfield Church on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>! (Mayfield Church is the big white church at 7747 Mayfield Road in Chesterland)

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### Sunday Mornings

Our Mid High Youth meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Koinonia Room. We are studying the parables of Jesus through a variety of mediums, including games, discussion, audio and visual elements, art, and more.

Our Senior High Youth meet for a time of discussion and study on the Book of Proverbs and the wisdom the book has to offer us today. *On Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> mid and senior high classes will combine for two special classes about Advent.*

### Advent Workshop Potato Bar

After church on December 4th, the youth group will host a potato bar before the advent workshop. All are invited for lunch and all donations received will go to the 2012 youth mission trip to Cherokee, NC

Kristen Otte  
FHC Youth Director  
[kristeno@fhcpresb.org](mailto:kristeno@fhcpresb.org)

### *A Few Words from the Deacons*



Coffee, sugar and cream?  
Donuts filled with jelly or cream?

Please be sweet and donate for your treat!  
(Baskets are on the coffee table.)

### *The Card Table*

Each week Forest Hills Church provides cards that can be sent to any member of the parish.

These cards can be used to help celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, the birth of a new baby or just to let someone know you are thinking about them during a difficult time in his/her life.



Maybe you just want to send a card to cheer someone unable to attend church at this time. (The church also provides the postage.) Stop by the card table this Sunday! You'll find a member of the month's CARE group ready to assist you.

Check out the website [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) Come and see! 9

**The Ministry Of Worship  
announces this year's edition of the...**

### **Advent Decoration Set-up Party**

**10 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2011.**

Okay, okay... We'll admit it. It's not that much of a party, really. But it is a way to offer up "the sweet spot" of your Saturday morning ...to honoring God.

There are certainly many other excellent ways to do that. This year, because we are decorating a week later than usual, we are offering you this opportunity to find (as others have) that helping to decorate the church for Advent is an act of giving that's also a great way to start to "the season of The Gift."

There is no particular skill required ...and event leader Eric personally guarantees that whenever you arrive, yule certainly be done at or before noon!

SO: If you would like to participate, you can just come on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If possible, let Eric know (216-752-7006). We hope to see you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

With sincere thanks,

Eric Muller-Girard "Ringmaster", FHC Worship-Aesthetics Committee

10 Check out the website [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) Come and see!



## FHC Work and Exploration Trip to Haiti

### “I’m Dreaming of a ‘Green’ Christmas”

Not exactly a rendition of the ol’ Bing Crosby classic.....but the upcoming holiday season has your Earth Care Green Team thinking about how we can honor God’s creation in several ways this month to care for our earthly home. Here are just a few ways to enjoy ‘Green Holidays’:

1. Shop 10,000 Villages for economic justice and resource sustainability (you can do this at FHC on Sunday, December 18).
2. Buy a live Christmas tree and then re-plant it—or buy an artificial tree and re-use it.
3. Use gift wrapping paper made from recycled paper—and recycle last year’s gift paper, and/or use re-usable gift bags. Newspaper pages and magazine covers also make interesting gift wrap.
4. Send Christmas cards that not only portray the true reason for the season, but also reflect nature. Of course you’ll want to purchase cards produced from recycled paper—or even make your own!
5. Buy organic foods (and local products) for your holiday table.
6. For the children on your list, purchase educational gifts that have a nature, ecological, or environmental theme.
7. Pare back (or even eliminate!) the outdoor lighted displays which consume electricity and therefore increase fossil fuel usage. Alternatively, buy LED lights which use a fraction of the energy that traditional holiday lights use.
8. Provide food for your local wildlife—the birds and the beasts around you—squirrels, birds, etc.
9. Provide gifts of charity to the world and its peoples (Heifer International or Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, for example).
10. Put on your favorite sweater (or two!), turn down your thermostat and cozy up to a nice cup of (fair trade) hot chocolate or tea!

Dave Neff and the Forest Hill Church Earth Care Green Team

Diana Woodbridge, Keith Logan, and Laura Steiner: what do these three passionate Forest Hill members have in common? Each of them identified a social need and followed a call to take specific action, and, hence, Forest Hill Housing Corporation (now Heights Housing Resource Center), LINKS, and Abundance Acres were launched.

Whether it is social justice in the Cleveland Heights community or financially supporting a church in Ghana, Forest Hill Church has demonstrated our commitment to social justice as well as an openness and encouragement to help individuals pursue their vision and call.

So today, another Forest Hill member has emerged with a vision and call—

Haitian- American Ralph Jean-Mary, a hospital administrator at the Cleveland Clinic, has discerned a call to explore the possibility of opening a self-operating medical clinic in the central region of Hinche, Haiti where his parents live and operate a hotel. We sense the Spirit’s nudging and leading, and we want to act on helping Ralph explore his vision.

**April 9-15, 2012:** Forest Hill Church will offer a “Work and Exploration Trip” to Hinche, Haiti. The seven-day trip will include five days of hands-on work with Habitat For Humanity in a local building/construction project, and two days exploring our possible partnership with existing medical endeavors (or possibly creating a new reality!) 12 spots are available and the cost will be in the \$1800 range. Air, food, and housing are included.

Familiarity with a hammer and shovel would be helpful, but not required.

Being open to possibility, exploration and joy is also necessary.

Ralph Jean-Mary and John and Deanne Lentz will be leading this adult work/discernment trip. An information and interest meeting will take place soon. Look for further details! For information contact:

[lentz.deanne@gmail.com](mailto:lentz.deanne@gmail.com).

Clover Beal

## Conversation on Race

As has been reported to you on several occasions, over 50 people engaged in a courageous conversation about race this summer. For many this was a transformative experience. In our call to be a diverse and inclusive community, it is important for us to push ourselves past embarrassment and even politeness into the depths of human engagement.

**On Sunday, December 11** after the church service, all are invited to Bodwell Hall to hear about what happened this summer. At this meeting there will be opportunity for those who are interested to join a small dinner group and have a similar experience to the summer groups, to study a book together, and to plan a pilgrimage to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN, the city where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. We are hoping to take a three-day trip in late April or early May.

The gathering on December 11 will last about an hour. Soup will be served. If you can, bring a side salad, finger food or dessert to share.

Come for lunch and join us on our continuing journey to become the beloved community of Christ!

Come and See! Come and Hear! Come and Do!

John Lentz

14-15 calendar

### Book Recommendation

One of the outcomes of last summer's Courageous Conversation on Race was a desire to read good books on the issue of race. One book that I highly recommend is the Pulitzer Prize winning ***In Search of Other Suns***, by Isabelle Wilkerson. Wilkerson tells the story of three African-Americans born in the Jim Crow south who made their way to places like Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. She tells the story of the Great Migration of Black American citizens from World War I to the Civil Rights era.

If you have recommendations of good books please let the office know, and we will share the gifts!

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14 *Check out the website* [www.fhcppresb.org](http://www.fhcppresb.org) *Come and see!*

Sundays in December	
No classes or choirs on December 25	
9:00	Child care begins
9:30	Adult education Youth education Descant Choir
10:15	Descant Choir activity
10:30	Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir
11:00	WORSHIP Children in Worship Little Explorers
11:15	Pathways to the Promise Land (gr. 1-5) (Dec. 4, 11)
12:15	Coffee Hour
5:00	Faith Leader

<b>December 4</b>	<b>2 Advent</b>	Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3: 8-15 Mark 1: 1-8
12:15 Lunch 1:00 Advent Workshop		
<b>December 11</b>	<b>3 Advent</b>	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28
12:30 Racial Conversation follow-up 7:00 Youth: <b>Converge!</b> at First Baptist Church		
<b>December 18</b>	<b>4 Advent</b>	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Luke 1: 46b-55 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38
Ten Thousand Villages shop here 10:15 Cherub Choir 11:00 Worship: Festival of Lessons and Carols 12:15 Christmas Pageant rehearsal 6:00 Youth: SH Christmas party		
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14
No classes or choirs 11:00 Informal worship in Fellowship Hall		



## **From the 2011 Nominating Committee New Officers, 2012**

### **Doris Allen (Nominating Committee)**

Doris has been a member of FHC for six years. Before joining Forest Hill, she was a member of Heights United Presbyterian and served as both an elder and a deacon.

### **Cindy Fink (Stewardship)**

Cindy and her husband Kemp Jaycox joined FHC in 2010. They have a five-year-old daughter, Kate Jaycox. Cindy works as a marketing and communications consultant.

### **Al Gilbert (Deacon)**

Al joined Phillips Ave. Presbyterian Church in 1956 and joined First Presbyterian in East Cleveland in 1967, where he served as Elder, Deacon, and Pastoral Assistant; he preached several times and ushered for many years. Al has been a member of Forest Hill Church since 2007, and attended for several years before that.

Al has been married sixty years to Iris; they have five children, two deceased. He retired from Continental Can Company after thirty four years. He is a veteran of World War II and has been active in many community and civic organizations. He lived in Cleveland Hts. for forty years before moving to Twinsburg five years ago.

### **Carol Hopkins-Lutz (Deacon)**

Carol has been a member of Forest Hill Church since 1981, and has sung in the choir, been an office volunteer and a Pathways shepherd. She is retired from the Board of Developmental Disabilities where she was the Community Supports Coordinator; recently she worked for a year in Americorps VISTA Service. Her other interests include boy scouting, volunteering at the Sight Center, and volunteering as a transporter for the Public Animal Welfare Society

### **Paul Jennings (Trustee)**

Paul has been involved with Forest Hill Church for over 3 years, designing and now managing the Abundance Acres garden, and joining the choir and the church this year. Paul has 4 grown children, 6 grandchildren, and he is restoring his vintage house in the Heights. He has recently retired from a career as an IT Project Manager, Business Consultant, and Electrical Engineer.

### **Jed Koops (Justice and Mission)**

Jed Koops and his wife Lisa joined FHC in 2008. As a composer-turned-pedental student, he stays stress-free by singing in the Chancel Choir and running marathons. He and Lisa are the proud parents of Linnea Joy (5 yrs old) and Julia Grace (5 months old).

### **Scott Lafferty (Clerk of Session)**

Scott has been a member of FHC for 21 years. He has served as Deacon, Elder, a member of the nominating committee, a NOAH Core Team leader, a Family Promise volunteer, and a member of the Interim Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. He has played softball for many years, plays the trumpet during Advent, and sings in the Chancel Choir. His wife Sue and children Christy, Julie and Peter are all members of FHC.

### **Deanne Lentz (Elder – Justice and Mission)**

Deanne has attended FHC for 17 years, ever since her husband John was called as senior pastor. She and John have three children (Jack, Meg and Sarah) who have grown up here. Deanne has been involved in many aspects of the education program and youth activities; she is a regular Family Promise host and an occasional lay preacher. She is a massage practitioner and works in a law office downtown.

### **Richard Peterjohn (Deacon)**

Dick and Elspeth, his wife of 49 years, have been members of Forest Hill Church since 1963. Dick has served as an usher, a church school shepherd, and a trustee. He is a retired educator in the Shaker schools. He and Elspeth have two children: David, and his wife Susanne, who are active members of FHC; and Kristen and her husband Joe Brown, who live in Dayton. They have seven grandchildren.

Dick is particularly grateful for the opportunities for fellowship and growth which this church offers – adult education, Bible and Bagels, the men's group, and the pilgrimages.

### **Carol Phillips (Deacon)**

Carol has been coming to Forest Hill Church since she was 2 years old, and was confirmed here. She has been the secretary at Noble Road Presbyterian Church for 18 years. She is married and has 2 adult children. She has served as Deacon, on nominating committee, on Presbyterian Women board, circle leader, Sunday school teacher, and member of Pacesetters and Lilac Circle.

## News of Our Church Family

### **Rosanna Sprague (Trustee)**

Rosanna has been a member of FHC since 1991; during that time she has been an Elder, a Deacon, an office volunteer, a teacher, a member of the choir and on the personnel committee. She has had a rich and varied professional life: an entertainer in Viet Nam, the director of the American Youth Club in Germany, a probation officer in Juvenile Court, VP of Operations at the University Club, the executive director of the USO in Ohio, director of admissions at Regina High School, international recruiter at The Andrews School, and consultant/owner of College Planning Partners LLC. She has been married to Chuck for 30 years; their daughter Sarah is a grad student at Harvard University.

### **Elaine Turley (Elder, Education and Spiritual Formation)**

Elaine has been a member of FHC since 2005. During that time she has chaperoned two youth mission trips, the Triennium trip, and one lock-in (smiles) and has co-facilitated the senior high discussion group. She has also gone through and thoroughly enjoyed the Faith Leader program, and is now active in the Sycamore group for Faith Leader alumni. Elaine works for a network of Cleveland public charter schools, helping 8th grade families in their selection of high-performing high schools and then tracking student progress through high school. She helped start two of the schools in the network and did fundraising for them for six years. She is also a founding board member of Transplant House of Cleveland – a nonprofit that is working to create a home-away-from-home for organ transplant patients and their families who come from outside Northeast Ohio to access Cleveland's medical centers. First and foremost, she is mother to Erik, Brad and Jordan Shoger; Erik works in Cleveland and lives in Cleveland Heights, and Brad and Jordan are both in college (Ohio State and Wittenberg).

### **FHC 2011 Nominating Committee**

Joanne Shaner, chair  
Chris Davis  
Robyn Hales  
Elizabeth Shaw  
Derry Stauffer  
Kevin Steiner

### **Baptisms**

**Piper Brynn Chapman**, daughter of Chris and Rhonda Chapman, was baptized November 20, 2011. Barbara Hansen was the attending Elder. Piper is the granddaughter of former members Jim and Penny Chapman.

### **In Memoriam We Remember**

**Joy L. Ferguson**, who died October 22, 2011

**James Joseph Conway**, who died October 22, 2011

**George Dean**, who died November 13, 2011

### **New Contact Information**

**Suzanne Marcy** (new phone): 216-956-3788

### **New emails only**

**Joanne Shaner** joanne@shaner.cc

### **Care Group**

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

The Deacons of Forest Hill Church are:

Debbie Adrine	Daryl Musick
Mary Ball	Cindy Newton
Jennifer Blakeney	Joy Stang
Cathie Kernich	Ahren Stock
Janet Kickel	Julie Waring
Robin Mervine	Nancy Wyss

### **Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:**

Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Elizabeth Kosnik, Mary Lewis, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters

### **Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:**

Robin Dadusc (requested by Kathryn Himmelsteib), Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey (Tom and Paula Harvey's family), Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother),

### **New members: October 30, 2011**

Lia Clement [Lia919@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lia919@sbcglobal.net)  
1514 Burlington Rd 216-371-3225  
Cleve Hts OH 44118

#### **Corinth CARE Group**

Lia has attended FHC for a year. She lives in the Forest Hill neighborhood (and is a neighbor of the Spragues). She is joining by Reaffirmation of Faith

Tim & Leigh Henderson T [tah35@case.edu](mailto:tah35@case.edu)  
2123 Lennox Rd Apt B L [leigh@case.edu](mailto:leigh@case.edu)  
Cleve Hts OH 44106 T 614-296-9964  
L 405-778-5955

#### **Eden CARE Group**

Tim and Leigh are graduate students at CWRU. They are joining by Letter of transfer from their old churches.

Ralph Jean-Mary [ralphjm@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphjm@yahoo.com)  
3846 Washington Blvd 216-862-0423  
University Hts OH 44118

#### **Jerusalem CARE Group**

Ralph and his wife Michelle began attending FHC when they moved to Cleveland in April, 2010. He works at the Cleveland Clinic in health care management. He is joining by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Paul Jennings [Jennings\\_paul@att.net](mailto:Jennings_paul@att.net)  
1193 Yellowstone Rd, 440-570-6736  
Cleve Hts 44121

#### **Calvary CARE Group**

Paul has attended FHC for several years. This year he agreed to lead the Abundance Acres teams and has joined the choir. He is joining by Reaffirmation of Faith.

### **Ushers**

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

### **Words of Thanks**

#### **To my church family, from Doris E. Brandt**

Many thanks for all the pastoral visits, phone calls, get-well cards and hospital visits while I was recovering from knee-replacement surgery. I was so grateful for your concern and it's wonderful to be back among you.

#### **To the people of FHC, from Anne Wilson**

On behalf of my mother JoAn Ferguson, brothers Mark and Paul Ferguson, and daughters Rachel and Clara Wilson, I would like to express my deep gratitude for all the prayers, cards, hugs and messages of support during my father's illness and passing. I am privileged to part of such a warm and caring congregation. Many thanks to you all.

## *Social Groups and Circles*

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

#### **Christmas Project and Potluck**

The Group will again be supporting a Boulevard family for Christmas. Our family is a single mother with 2 children, a boy age 7 and a girl age 6. The mother was out of work last year but is now working. She would appreciate a good Christmas for her children. Watch for more information about gifts, or contact Cathy Ghiandoni for details. All gifts need to be wrapped and tagged by December 10th.

There will be a Christmas Pot Luck dinner at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews, 2740 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, Friday, December 9 at 6:00 pm (bring the Boulevard gifts to dinner)

Appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts are needed. Main course provided. Contact Cathy Ghiandoni at 216 691-1905 or [cghiandoni@aol.com](mailto:cghiandoni@aol.com) for reservations.

**December 9, Andrews home, 6:00 pm**

### **The Back Row (singles and couples 20s – 40s)**

#### **Christmas Party**

Ho Ho Ho! Mark your calendar for the Back Row Annual Christmas Party! Plan to join us December 10th at 7:30 pm at the home of the Hideks, 5284 Golfway Lane, Lyndhurst 44124. Please bring an appetizer to share and any special drinks you may want. Book your babysitters now so that you can enjoy some adult-only social time! Contact Christina Hidek (christina.hidek@gmail.com or 440-646-9093).

**December 10, Hidek home, 7:30 pm**

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

We will not be meeting in December as a group. We encourage interested women to participate in the Women's Retreat, Saturday, December 3, 2011 at FHC from 9 to 3.

Since we are not meeting, if any women have not completed their pledge to Presbyterian Women for 2011 and wish to make a contribution, please make checks out to FHC with Presbyterian Women in the memo line. The checks may be put in the offering or mailed to the church office. We will be distributing our funds to our selected charities at the end of the year.

## **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 DECEMBER 9 (one week early), January 13, February 17. We will be distributing TOWERs in the Garden Foyer for a week or two following the due date. The TOWER will be posted on the website as soon as it is available.**

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
- ❖ Liz Wollaeger (DCE), [lizw@fhcpresb.org](mailto:lizw@fhcpresb.org), ext. 206
- ❖ Kristen Otte (Youth), [kristeno@fhcpresb.org](mailto:kristeno@fhcpresb.org), ext 207
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial): [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

*Check out the website* [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) *Come and see!* 23

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

If you are in the building and need a custodian, or outside needing to get in, and a custodian is on duty, he may be reached at 216-217-5257.

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 \$25 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!**

24 *Check out the website* [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) *Come and see!*

## Thanks to ALL Who Participated in Two Service Days

### FHC Fall Workday: October 29

Many thanks to those who made the day a big success.

All scheduled work was completed including the storing of 115 screens and installation of 70 storms; edging and raking of all beds; cleaning and raking the playground; removal of several old shrubs and the removal of undesirable plant material from a privet hedge.

Forty-one members and Boy Scouts contributed their time:

Nick Baumgartner	Consuelo Heineman	Eric Muller-Girard
Phyllis Baumgartner	Grant Heineman	Daryl Musick
Jessica Baumgartner	Anne Hunter	Hal Musick
Mary Ball	David Hunter	Jim Roos
Chessie Bleick	Chuck Ishler	Carol Scott
Lisa Chuppa	Paul Jennings	Jim Seeders
Chris Fuller	Scott Lafferty	Chuck Smith
Marcia Grant	John Lentz	Laura Steiner
Roger Heineman	Laurie Logan	Ahren Stock

Boy Scouts – Brian Baumgartner, Scout Master - 10 scouts and 4 leaders

Also, thanks to the custodians Anthony and Michael who provided the much-needed support.

David Hunter

### FHC All-Church Day of Community Service & Action: Nov. 19

Many thanks to those who participated in the Justice & Mission Day of Community Service & Action on November 19! We had a fabulous turnout of 38 enthusiastic volunteers, ranging in age from under 2 to over 80! We provided concrete help on needed projects for Family Promise and 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter, FHC mission partners that support homeless families and individuals in the Cleveland community. Below is the list of volunteers who helped – many thanks to all of you for sharing your time and energy!

Family Promise Team: Carol Leslie; Christina & Benjamin Hidek; Grace Uhle; Kathryn Eloff; Mary Ball; Elizabeth Shaw; Kathy Hanna Stauffer; Betty Clark; Diana Woodbridge; Joanne & Alexander Shaner; Kurt Haas & Deedee Pim; Elaine Turley; Tim & Leigh Henderson; Erik & Charissa Peterson; JT, Sarah & Esther Tan; Phuong Huynh; Emily Wollaeger; Jed Koops; Laura Steiner

2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter Team: Barb Cloud; Dick Obermanns; Ron Register; Laurie, Katie & Megan Muller-Girard; Gary & Julie Lustic; Michael Broadwater; Randy Reese; Suzanne Marcy; Paul Jennings

## Abundance Acres Garden 2011

Praise God for his bounty! We worked through the wettest year on record and still managed to harvest over 620 pounds of food. We helped stock the Abundance Food Pantry and also took a bit of surplus to the Height Emergency Food Center. Laura (our flower child) also produced an explosion of blossoms the entire summer and fall until the snow arrived this week. The flowers helped many of us provide cheerful ministry to others. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped plant, tend, and harvest our garden this year. And a very special thanks to the Tending Team Leaders Laura Steiner, Sandy Schultz, and Becky West.

If you would like to help us next year, please let us know. We will be planning this winter and trying to get an early start in the spring.

Help us grow!

Paul Jennings



"Beans Green and Yellow"

by Mary Oliver

In fall it is mushrooms  
gathered from dampness  
under the pines:  
in spring I have known  
the taste of the lamb  
full of milk and spring grass;  
today it is beans green and yellow  
and lettuce and basil from my friends' garden —  
how calmly, as though it were an ordinary thing,  
we eat the blessed earth.

from *The Writer's Almanac*, September 2011



### Order poinsettias for Christmas!

Poinsettias are \$7.00 each and may be ordered through December 11. Please complete the order form below and contact the church office with the information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plants given by (if different from above name):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to donate them or take them home after the Christmas Eve service? D T

Plants given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Total : \_\_\_\_\_ plants @ \$7 each = \_\_\_\_\_