

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

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR! And since you will receive this TOWER before January 8th, may I wish you a Merry Christmas too!

As we turn our attention to the weeks ahead, what will the new year bring? If it is anything like 2011 we will be in for quite a ride. Consider just a few of the things that occurred in the last 12 months: Arab Spring, the death of Bin Laden, the ouster of Gaddafi, a tsunami, iPhone 4S, an earthquake that was felt in Washington D.C., Occupy Wall Street, the Indians were once 30-15 and in first place! There were triumphs and tragedies, joys and sorrows, births and deaths.

What were particularly special events in your life this past year? What were the highlights, the lowlights? What was accomplished? What was left undone? It is a very fine discipline to review the year and give thanks for all things, even the hard things.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year? What are your hopes and fears? It is a very fine discipline to peer ahead into the unknown and offer all to God, trusting that God will be present.

As the Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 139 (in vs. 1-18):

If I ascend to heaven, or make my bed in Sheol, whether I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, or cover myself in darkness – God will be there... God's hand shall lead me. To God, the darkness is not dark, and the night is as bright as the day.

Verse 18 ends: *I come to the end – I am still with you.*

Seeking to orient your life (and all that will happen in the months ahead) by the graceful promise that you can't get outside of God's love for you will make a difference.

John

John Lentz
Senior Pastor

Inside the January Tower

From the Pastor	1
Adult Education in January	2
The Clover Patch	3
Task Force	4
Children and Youth Ministries	4
Music Notes	6
Youth Report	7
New Paraments	8
Sundays in January	9
Slate of Officers: 2012	10
News of Our Church Family	11
Social Groups and Circles	12
Office News and Reminders	13
Cleveland Hts Point of Dispensing Training	14

Adult Education in January

9:30 am in South Hall

January 8

Presentation by Ms. Jan Thrope, author of *Inner Visions: Grassroots Stories of Truth and Hope* and Executive Director of Inner Visions of Cleveland. (<http://innervisionsofcleveland.org>)

Inner Visions: Grassroots Stories of Truth and Hope is written and photographed from the perspective of people living in some of the most economically challenged areas of Cleveland's east side urban core. It is a story of what is seen on these streets. But it is also about the power of what happens when neighbors connect to neighbors to co-create the life they envision.

January 15

The FHC **Courageous Conversations on Race** Group

January 22

Dr. John Lentz, Jr. "What did Jesus Mean by 'the Kingdom of God'?"

January 29 - April 1

Kerygma Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark

Jan. 29 - Feb. 26, large group in South Hall

March 4 - 25, small group studies

April 1, large group wrap-up

Watch for more details!



Dear friends

20 women gathered for a half-day retreat Saturday, December 3 to Create Space for God and to prepare ourselves for Advent – to step back away from the frenetic activity of the season in order to ground ourselves in what matters about the season of preparing for Christ's coming. Elder Jean Reinhold led us through active, reflective engagement of poems that took us through a journey of self to God. As we gathered together the beautiful products of our day's reflections and writings, there appeared a recurrent theme. It seemed that each woman heard a Divine Yes in her life. Yes, God is on our side. Yes, God affirms who we are, who we are created to be. There was laughter and celebration as each woman shared her own particular Yes. Here is one of the poems that meant a great deal to us. I hope you like it too.

Blessings for a happy and healthy New Year,

Clover

Rev. Clover Beal
Associate Pastor

God Says Yes To Me

by Kaylin Haugh

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic
and she said yes
I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is
I asked her if I could wear nail polish
or not wear nail polish
and she said honey
she calls me that sometimes
she said you can do just exactly
what you want to
Thanks God I said
And is it even okay if I don't paragraph
my letters
Sweetcakes God said
who knows where she picked that up
what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes

from *The Palm of Your Hand*. © Tilbury House

Task Force

Since May, a dedicated group of appointed Elders and lay people has worked on a Session-appointed task force. The task force set out to listen to you, the members and friends of Forest Hill Church; to study our history and our patterns; and to pay attention to best practices of other churches around Cleveland. The published report reclaimed core values and made recommendations for future growth. However, the Task Force produced more than a report. What evolved was a living document that the Session accepted with gratitude. The Elders will now use this document to shape the Session's work for the next five years. I encourage you to read the document which you can find on line at our website www.fhcpresb.org

The members of the Task Force were: Melody Obery and Jeff Smith (co-chairs), Dave Bell, Barb Cloud, Jeannine Gury, Barb Hansen, Steve Sedam, Elizabeth Shaw, Chuck Smith and Peg Weissbrod.

Thanks be to God!

John Lentz

Children and Youth Ministries

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

- In our Nursery, thank you to Jill Roberts, Ron Register and Beth Feroe.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Susanne & Laura Peterjohn.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Sarah & Matt Winters
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land program, thank you to Julie Lustic, Karen Loughridge, Barb Cloud, David Peterjohn and Chantal Miller.

Thank you to Beth Zych for her time and vision as our director in our 4th Family Christmas Eve pageant. We expect it to be a huge success!

Children's Christian Education

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

In January the children in these programs will be exploring and participating in stories about Jesus' early life and his baptism. Be sure to ask your children what the story was about and share the response craft with them. Becky West and Sandy Schultz will be leading the *Little Explorers* class and Diane Moyer and Jeremy Ryman will be leading *Children in Worship*.

Pathways to the Promise Land (grades 1-5)

Our rotation-style church school begins the New Year with the story of Jesus' baptism. The Spirit of God descends like a dove upon Jesus at his baptism, saying "This is my son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One. Jesus will redefine the definition of *messiah* for Israel through his ministry, death and resurrection. The children will explore this theme through cooking, storytelling and art.

Dates to Know

January 1	No church school classes
January 8	KISS - Children attend worship with their families to celebrate the Lord's Supper
January 15	Gathering Time - Pathways to the Promise Land children begin in the Chapel at 11:00. Children will then be escorted to workshops with their Shepherds
Jan. 22 & 29	Children begin in worship, then be excused to their workshops

Christian Education Rooms

This past autumn the Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation examined the focus of rooms that are used for Christian Education. We felt that the room known as the Upper Room (second level of the Monticello wing), used in our Pathways to the Promise Land program, could be refashioned into two separate rooms. With our growing programs we were in need of more flexible meeting spaces.

The Children's Library has been moved into one half of the room. Our youngest members spend much of their Sunday mornings in that hallway and having their library closer will benefit families and teachers. Please take some time to visit this new space – it is warm and inviting.

Ideas and visions for the smaller, newly created Upper Room are being considered. The room which was the Children's Library, on the lower level of the Monticello wing, will become the Youth Director's office, which will leave the Koinonia Room free for programs and meetings. We are excited about these new rooms and the possibilities they may offer in helping children, youth and adults in their faith journeys.

Volunteer Opportunities

Nursery

Where can you:

- Eat animal crackers
- Hold a baby
- Play with blocks
- and listen to the worship service, all at the same time?

In our nursery – that's where!

Our nursery is in need of volunteers through the winter months. Please sign up in the nursery or contact the Christian Education office.

Christian Education

Are you looking for a way to get connected in the life of the church?

Consider teaching in one of the Christian Education programs for children and youth.

It is a great way to share your faith and get to know our amazing younger members. Curriculum is teacher-friendly and life-relevant.

Please contact Liz Wollaeger for more information on how you can enrich your faith as you lead a Church School class.

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger, Director of Christian Education

Music



Dear Forest Hill Friends,

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

On January 8th, we look forward to singing “We Three Kings” as our three FHC kings, decked out in their beautiful, flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapie), journey down the aisle, offering their glittering treasures to the Christ Child.

On Sunday, January 22nd, our fifth AEL (arts-enhanced liturgy) will feature the spiritual power of poetry. Jean Reinhold, a very fine poet herself, and I are crafting a service during which poetry will replace many of the traditional elements of the service. For example, instead of a musical prelude, there will be a poetic one. Jean has even written a poem that I am setting to music, and the Chancel Choir will premiere this new work during the offertory that day. Jean led the Women’s Retreat on December 3rd, and poetry that was written that day will also be incorporated into the service.

New hymnal update: It’s expected to be ready by September, 2013. The book will contain around 800 selections, compared to about 600 in the current hymnal. But due to better printing techniques and the availability of thinner paper, the commitment is that it not be any thicker or any heavier than the 1990 volume. I have received a sampler of some of the new hymns that may be included, and we will sing some of these in the coming weeks. I’m excited!

Soli Deo Gloria

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

6 *Check out the website* www.fhcpresb.org *Come and see!*

Youth Report



All Things New at Converge in January

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 for teens include a full band (drums, electric guitar, keys) and a relevant message.

Our theme for January is *All Things New*. Bring a new or used children's book for the offering. Join us January 8th at 7 pm at First Baptist (3630 Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Hts).

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 29th to reserve your spot.** This is a firm deadline!! If cost is an issue, contact Kristen about scholarships.

Fun & Fellowship this winter

Tobogganing: Saturday January 14th

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm for the annual trip to the Toboggan Chutes at the Metroparks. Bring \$10 and wear lots of layers! Mid and Senior High Youth along with friends are invited.

Girls' Night: Friday January 20th

All girls 6th grade and up are invited for girls' night starting at 7 pm. We will head to the movies and enjoy some Sweetie Fry ice cream afterwards. More details to come.

Ski Trip: February 3rd-5th

The Youth Group will be heading to Peak'n'Peek for a ski trip the weekend of February 3rd. Mid Highs will meet at 6 pm at the church Friday night and head to the Logans' cabin for the night. They will ski all day Saturday and return Saturday evening. Senior Highs will meet at 8:30 am Saturday morning, ski all day Saturday, stay overnight Saturday and return Sunday around lunchtime.

The cost for the all participants is \$70, which includes lift ticket, ski or snowboard rental, and two meals (dinner and breakfast). We will need adult chaperones, so consider joining us for a weekend of skiing! Sign up by January 22.

Sunday Mornings

Our Mid High Youth meet every Sunday morning at 9:30am in the Koinonia Room. In January, we will study what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

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.

Kristen Otte
Director of Youth Ministries

New Paraments

I hoped you will notice or have already noticed the beautiful new white paraments and communion table cloth in use during the Christmas season. Created by FHC member Mary Anne Breisch, they are dedicated to the life of Bob and Nancy Mann, parents of Katie Weissbrod. Thanks be to God for such a beautiful testimony to two beautiful people.

The worship committee hopes to complete the parament sets for the entire liturgical year in the upcoming months so keep your eyes open as we journey through God's year together.

John Lentz

Sundays in January

No classes or choirs on January 1

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) (Jan, 22, 29)
12:15 Coffee Hour
5:00 Faith Leader

January 1 11:00 WORSHIP (in Fellowship Hall)	Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2:22-40
January 8 Celebration of Epiphany 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion; Procession of the Three Kings Pathways: KISS 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir 7:00 Youth: <i>CONVERGE!</i> at First Baptist Church	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12
January 15 11:00 Pathways: Gathering Time 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir	1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51
January 22 1:00 Lunch and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 26-31 Mark 1: 14-20
January 29 9:30 Adult Ed: Kerygma begins 11:00 WORSHIP: Ordination and Installation of Officers	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28

**The 2011 Nominating Committee will present this slate
of officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 15:**

Clerk – Scott Lafferty

Trustees

Elder - Nick Baumgartner

Trustees - Rosanna Sprague, Paul Jennings, Mark Waring, Tim Gifford

Deacons

Albert Gilbert, Dick Peterjohn, Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Carol Phillips

Ministry of Stewardship

Elder - Dele Solaru

Elected Leader - Cindy Fink

Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation

Elder - Elaine Turley

Ministry of Justice and Mission

Elder - Deanne Lentz

Elected Leader - Jed Koops

Nominating Committee

Doris Allen

Wendy Brock

Jason Hidek

Ron Schmidt

Sandy Schultz

Ministry of Worship

Elder – Elizabeth Shaw

Biographies of most of these candidates may be found in the December **TOWER** (on the website or on your coffee table).

Biographies not received in time for the last **TOWER** are:

Sandy Schultz (Nominating Committee)

Sandy has been a member of FHC since 1968. In her 44 years here she has served the church in numerous ways: as a Deacon and Elder, as part of the Women's Association, on the Peacemaking Task Force, on the Board of Church and Society, on the Associate Pastor Search Committee, on a previous Nominating Committee, as an Abundance Acres gardener, and as a nursery and preschool volunteer. Sandy will retire in January from her position with the Human Resources Department of the CHUH School District. She has three daughters, all of whom were married at FHC, and seven (soon to be eight) grandchildren. Three of these – Charlie, Jude and Brendan West – are fifth-generation FHC-ers.

Dele Solaru (Elder, Stewardship)

Dele has been a member of FHC since 1996. She has served as a Deacon, usher, Pathways shepherd, and bakesale volunteer. She is a pharmacist and works for Kaiser Permanente. Dele and her husband Damos have two sons, Reni and Demo. Dele loves to travel, garden and read.

Mark Waring (Trustee)

Mark joined FHC in March, 2007. He has served the church as a Deacon and one of the highly-skilled Sound Guys. He is a Healthcare I.T. professional who manages major projects. He has been married for 28 years to Julie, currently a Deacon; they have two sons, Peter and David.

News of Our Church Family

Bulletin Covers

For the last two months, the bulletin cover has given witness to the gift and faithfulness of FHC member Eric Muller-Girard. As a participant in the Faith Leader program, Eric discerned a call shaped by his artistic talents, and volunteered to draw the cover of our weekly worship bulletin. During November, the bulletin expressed the themes from the book of Exodus. In December, the focus was on Advent and Christmas. My personal favorite was of Elizabeth, throwing back her head in delightful laughter at the pregnancy of Mary (Dec. 11). The bulletin that conveyed the worship of the golden calf was particularly good too.

Thank you, Eric, for offering your gifts of time, talents and treasure to the work of Jesus Christ at Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian.

John Lentz

Baptisms

Eloise Katherine Dus-Jastremsky, daughter of Melinda Dus and Curtis Jastremsky, was baptized December 11, 2011. Richard Obermanns was the attending Elder. Caroline Gynn and Paul Wilder are Eloise's godparents.

Care Group

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

The FHC Deacons are:

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

Joining the Deacons in 2012:

Albert Gilbert
Carol Hopkins-Lutz
Dick Peterjohn
Carol Phillips

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:

Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey (Tom and Paula Harvey's family), Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother),

Ushers

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

Social Groups and Circles

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

In December the Group supported a Boulevard School family for Christmas. We provided a tree, decorations, gifts of clothes for a mom, a girl, 6, and a boy, 7 and toys for both children. Gift certificates for Payless Shoes and Dave's Market were also given to the family. Thanks to all who donated gifts or money so this family could have a Merry Christmas.

The Group's next get-together will be a Super Bowl Party at the home of Anne and David Hunter on February 5th.

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s – 60s): **Planning Party**

Bring something to munch, something to drink, and ideas for next year's programming to Chris & Dave Bell's, on Saturday, January 14 at 7:00 pm. (Better yet, email ideas ahead of time to Dave at David.Bell.Esq@gmail.com or to Chris at Chris3040@aol.com.) We will be planning events, dates and organizers.

Ground rules:

1. Food and drink must be involved. (It is written: "Whenever two or more of you are gathered in my name, eat.")
2. Tropical cruises, concerts and Habitat for Humanity projects are all fair game.
3. Hosts for events will be assigned as needed. ☺

RSVP to Dave or Chris at the email addresses above, or by phone at 216-932-6992, then join us on January 14.

Show up so you can speak up!

January 14, Dave & Chris Bell's (3040 Scarborough, CH), 7 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church): **Book Group**

Iris Circle is a fellowship of Presbyterian Women at Forest Hill Church. We enjoy the fellowship of women, good food, and service to the church. In the past year we provided 11 Care packages to Forest Hill college students, visited the Kent Fashion Museum, decorated the gift tags for the Holiday Angels, studied the Bible with Clover, visited Ten Thousand Villages when it was at Trinity Cathedral, enjoyed a talk about the Turkey pilgrimage and discussed good books to read.

We donated money to charities at the end of the year to Abundance Acres Food Pantry, Family Promise, Presbyterian Women of the Western Reserve and Heights Youth Club.

If you are interested in participating in any of the activities of Iris Circle please join us.

In January we will be sharing good books on Tuesday, January 17th at 1:00 at Forest Hill Church. We each bring a good book we have read and would like to recommend to other women, and give a 3 minute synopsis of our book. The titles are compiled and you go home with a list of good books to read.

Questions? Contact Cathy Ghiandoni (cgghiandoni@aol.com or 216-691-9105)

January 17, Forest Hill Church, 1 pm

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 January 13, February 17, March 16.** *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, ext. 200
- ❖ Clover Beal, pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org, ext 201
- ❖ Anne Wilson (music), annew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208
- ❖ Liz Wollaeger (DCE), lizw@fhcpresb.org, ext. 206
- ❖ Kristen Otte (Youth), kristeno@fhcpresb.org, ext 207
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203
- ❖ Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

Our website is 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 (\$2 to be mailed).

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!**

Cleveland Heights Point of Dispensing (POD) Training

Dear Forest Hill Congregation, Friends and Family,

During a public health emergency, when preventive medicine or vaccine is being offered to the community, we need many people to assist in distributing these medicines or vaccines. The public health emergency can be the result of a natural occurrence of a disease (i.e. pandemic flu or SARS), exposure to a pathogen (i.e. anthrax or smallpox) resulting from an act of bioterrorism, or other community emergency requiring rapid dispensing of preventive medicine or vaccine.

In Cleveland Heights, we will establish a Point of Dispensing (POD) in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Our POD will be located at the Cleveland Heights Community Center and will be staffed primarily by Cleveland Heights volunteers, 18 years of age and older.

Find out more about the operation of a POD. Point of Dispensing (POD) training will be held Tuesday, January 10, 2012 from 7:30 to 9 pm in Fellowship Hall at Forest Hill Church.

We hope you can plan to join us in learning more about this important community service.

If you are unable to attend, but are interested, let us know. There will be additional sessions scheduled throughout Cleveland Heights. Let us know if you have questions or comments.

For general inquiries:
John Schellenberg
Home: 216-321-6720

For specific questions about the training session:
Karen Seidman, Cleveland Heights CERT
Email: clvhtscert@gmail.com
Cell: 216-314-0896



A Christmas Benediction

Leader: On the eve of Christmas hatred will vanish;
On the eve of Christmas the earth will flourish;
On the eve of Christmas war will be gone;
On the eve of Christmas love will be born.
When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person,

All: It is Christmas.

Leader: When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes,

All: It is Christmas.

Leader: When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart,

All: It is Christmas.

Leader: When I am buried in the being of God,

All: It is Christmas.

