

The Tower

Forest Hill Church

December 2012

Dear Friends,

"Tis the season to be jolly!" Indeed, the month of December can be jolly as we shop and decorate and bake. However, we know too that December can be melancholy as we remember those we are missing, and feel lonely and disconnected.

*From the
Pastor*

The birth of Jesus that we anticipate and prepare for in Advent is the birth of God into life and into the real world. This is the Christian truth that often disarms me and calls me back to reality. *"God so loved the world that he sent his only son."* (John 3:16) God so loves **you and me and us and them**. Whatever condition you find yourself in at this point of the year: full of joy or sadness, on top of the world or in the pits, the story of Christmas is very clear: God is born for you, into your world.

Remember the narrative that we share with our children each Christmas Eve – Mary pregnant and no room in the inn – God comes. Shepherds stuck on a hillside – God comes. Herod, the powerful king, suspicious – God is present. Into the gloom of another midnight or dark night of the soul – God comes. The birth of the Savior does not save anyone from physical death, does not all of a sudden right all the wrongs, or make bad things good. Rather, the incarnation is a declaration, a profession of trust that God is in the midst of it all. There is no place where God is not present. Psalm 139 reminds us:

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,'

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you. (v. 7-9)

God so loved the world. So we too love the world and are not afraid. We care for others. We act in our neighborhoods and communities shaped by love that casts out fear. We share our gifts with others and welcome the stranger. We do not complain about the darkness but instead light the candle of hope.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:5)

Be blessed this Advent and Yuletide. Emmanuel, God with us!



Dr. John C. Lentz
Sr. Pastor

Dear friends,

From the
Clover
Patch



As I write this I am in the midst of a study week during which I have focused my reading on preparing for our group pilgrimage to Rome in March. I have been reading *Church History in Plain Language*, by Bruce L. Shelley; *The Rise of Christianity*, by Rodney Stark; *Judaism and Christianity in First Century Rome*, edited by Karl Donfried and Peter Richardson; and *Augustus*, a novel by Anthony Everitt. I took classes on church history while in seminary, but after 20 years of ordained ministry, reading again about Christianity's development from a movement in the shadows to an empirical religion is quite fascinating. I am so excited to go to Rome to see—quite literally—the layers of Christianity's development.

Why did Christianity grow and take hold in the early Roman Empire? Sociologist Rodney Stark argued that one of the key factors in Christianity's growth in the first three hundred years after Jesus' resurrection was that *the community put their theology into practice and many were drawn to their witness of love*. The Christians were known for their love and compassion for the poor and outcast, the orphans and widows. The Christians visited the imprisoned, embraced the sick during the plagues (which also meant that their own community's immune systems built up resistance to the diseases), and refused to take part in the games that killed people for sport. Christians valued the dignity of life for all and lived out their belief in the unity and equality for all: black, brown, white; rich, poor; slave, free; male, female; Jew or Gentile. For Roman society, Christian beliefs and more importantly, their practices, were viewed as radically countercultural.

What I found most intriguing was Stark's assertion that *Roman religions worshiped gods who paid little attention to things 'down below.'* The simple phrase *'For God so loved the world ...'* would have puzzled an educated pagan. And the notion that the gods care about how we treat one another would have been dismissed as patently absurd . . . Moreover, the corollary that because God loves humanity, Christians may not please God unless they love one another was something entirely new. Perhaps even more revolutionary was the principle that *Christian love and charity must extend beyond the boundaries of family*

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Check out the website www.fhccpresb.org Come and see!

and tribe, that it must extend to 'all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (212)

In Advent, may we reflect again upon the nature of the God who came "down below" in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus put flesh on the essence of the love God has for all humanity, a love that is not preferential. By doing the unimaginable, through vulnerability, God came and showed mercy to all people. Putting love into practice is how the church will continue to grow in the 21st century as well. As Tertullian, an early church father, said about the power of the Christian's witness to the world: "Look how they love one another."

Blessings upon your Advent season as we wait together for the coming of Immanuel.

Clover

Rev. Clover Beal
Associate Pastor

Journey to Bethlehem
Sunday, December 9, 2 – 5 pm
Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield

Step back in time and visit Bethlehem as it was at the time of Christ's birth. Interact with street merchants and animals, watch craftsmen at work, and listen while the townspeople and shepherds set the stage for the discovery of the newborn king. Come to Disciples Christian Church on Sunday, December 9. The Journey runs continuously from 2 to 5 pm.

Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Rd in Cleveland Heights, across from Severance Town Center. Admission is free. For more information, call 216-382-5344 or visit www.discipleschristian.org.

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our children continue to be engaged in all of the Christian Education programs. The lessons, workshops, discussions and projects can 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 during November.

- In our nursery, thank you to Kathryn Himmelsteib, Sarah Tan and Virginia Weiss.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck.
- In our Children in Worship, thank you to Joanne & Dan Shaner, Deanne Lentz, Jennifer Blakeney and the mid high youth.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Laurie Logan, Danielle Cosgrove, Barb Cloud, Alisha Trammell and Joanne Shaner.

Little Explorers Three and Four year olds

Emily Curry 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 lesson. It's a great way to reinforce the Bible lesson and story.

Children in Worship Older four year olds and kindergarten

Jen Fu 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 how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. As the Good News of Jesus spread around the world, different cultures adapted their own customs and folkways to create unique celebrations of Jesus' birth. The children will explore this through geography and story. This rotation is a two week exploration; the children will remain in worship for *Lessons and Carols* on December 16.

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Dates to Know

December 2 KISS – Kids in Sunday Service

Children in grades 1-5 will remain in worship to celebrate the Lord's Supper with their families.

December 2 Advent Workshop

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

December 2 and 16 Cherub Choir

Meet in Rm 206 at 10 am for practice. Cherubs will sing in worship on December 16.

December 16 Festival of Lessons and Carols

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

December 30 Family Worship service

There will be no church school this Sunday. Child care is available for babies through 5 years old.

Faithfully,

Liz

Liz Wollaeger
Director of Christian Education

Christmas Cookies!!

Looking for the perfect gift for a friend, co-worker or family member?



Buy a gift box of delicious cookies from the FHC Youth! The youth are hosting a Christmas Cookie Walk on Sunday December 16 from 9:30 am-1:00 pm. We will sell cookies by the pound complete with a gift box and ribbon. All money raised goes towards our Nicaragua trip next summer.

If you want to support the FHC Youth by baking your favorite cookie for the cookie walk, we ask you bring at least two batches of the same cookie or cookie dough by 4 pm on Saturday Dec 15. We will be baking and setting up for the Cookie Walk on that day.

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Forest Hill Youth

Please contact the church office if you need to reach someone associated with a church activity

Family Promise Host Day The youth group is hosting Family Promise at Forest Hill on Saturday, December 1. We will be cooking and serving dinner for the families and will be the activity hosts for the night. We need youth to arrive at 5 pm and help until 9 pm.

Christmas at Converge On December 9 at 7 pm, *Converge* is celebrating Christmas. Sine Nomine Choir will sing and present a skit, and Kristen Otte is the speaker for the evening. Youth and their families are invited for the Christmas celebration. Bring hats, mittens, or scarves for the offering and come celebrate the good news together with your favorite Christmas carols!

Cookie Bake In preparation for the Christmas Cookie sale on December 16, the youth will be baking on Saturday, December 15 at FHC. We will start at 1 pm and will bake until we drop!!

Christmas Parties!

The Mid High Christmas Party will be Friday, December 7 from 6:30-9 pm at the Trammells'. Youth in grades 6-8 are invited for an evening of Christmas cheer. Bring a snack, dessert or drink to share, along with a gift (\$10 or under) for the white elephant gift exchange.

The Senior High Christmas Party will be Friday, December 21 from 6:30-9 pm at the Brocks'. Youth in grades 9-12 are invited for an evening of Christmas cheer. Bring a snack, dessert, or drink to share, along with a gift (\$10 or under) for the white elephant gift exchange.

Nicaragua Mission Trip: July 13-20 Our Senior Highs will spend a week in mission in Leon, Nicaragua this summer. The trip is open to current eighth graders through high school seniors and the participant cost is \$400. If you missed the mission trip meeting, see Kristen to learn more about the trip. **Signups (including a \$100 deposit) are due by January 20, 2013.**

Kristen

Kristen Otte
Director of Youth Ministries

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The four Sundays of Advent begin December 2, and during this time we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child. Even though the secular world has been singing Christmas carols since early November, try to honor faithfully the more meditative and preparation-minded spirit of the four Advent weeks. You 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!*

The Sine Nomine Choir will sing and present a skit for the multi-church **Converge** service at First Baptist Church on Sunday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. *Converge* was started by FHC youth director Kristen Otte, and we rejoice in its success! The singers will have a fun time meeting youth from other churches this evening.

Our **Festival of Lessons and Carols** will take place this year on Sunday, December 16, 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 Sunday, December 23, there will be lots of singing, under the leadership of Beth Zych, during Adult Education hour (9:30 to 10:30 am). The Descant Choir will spend their usual rehearsal time with the adults as we listen to and sing all kinds of Christmas music.

On December 24, 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). A fifteen-minute musical prelude will precede the 11:00 pm service.

I wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season. Soli Deo Gloria!

Anne

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

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**Advent Alleluias:
Advent and Christmas hymns and music
Sundays in Advent 9:30 am in South Hall**

Dec. 2 Lara Troyer
Dec. 9 Beth Zych
Dec. 16 Dr. David Rothenberg, CWRU
Dec. 23 FHC choirs, led by Beth Zych

Remember the Chilean mining accident in 2010? For 81 days 33 men were trapped 2,300 feet underground. Above ground other miners, families of those trapped and, eventually, the whole world worked and prayed for the success of a very difficult rescue operation. The trapped miners worked to survive, suffered and prayed that rescuers would arrive before they died. All were united in hope and expectation.

I see this event as an image of Advent. People are waiting for something big to happen. Not just killing time, but working, praying, hoping, expecting with great intensity. Neither the trapped miners nor their rescuers knew for sure whether or how the rescue adventure would turn out. But they put every ounce of faith and all possible resources to prepare for the arrival of rescued miners on the surface alive to rejoice with the world waiting there for them.

The spirit of Advent is a spirit of hope – hope for the arrival of one whose coming will transform everything. Isaiah and the other Old Testament prophets proclaimed the hope and expectation of a new manifestation of God's sovereignty over Jerusalem, which waited in judgment for having abandoned its covenant with God. The early Christians proclaimed the hope and expectation of Christ's return and the realization of a cosmic transformation.

We tend to associate the Advent spirit of hope with the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We do a lot of special things to reenact God's coming to unite in humanity with us. We put up special decorations, light special candles, read special scripture lessons and sing special songs while waiting for Christ to come change everything.

Adult education at Forest Hill Church will be special for Advent this year. There will be a series of lessons on Advent hymns and music:

- December 2 **Lara Troyer** will lead in a study of four hymns
- December 9 **Beth Zych** will lead in a study of another set of hymns.
- December 16 **Professor David Rothenberg** will tell us about the annunciation scene in Renaissance music for Advent. (Find out about Amber Wednesday!)
- December 23 **FHC choirs led by Beth Zych** will help us revel in joyful singing in the spirit of Advent.

The purpose of this series is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Advent hymns and music by both learning about their history and by singing them with new attention to their meaning.

If you are not a regular participant in Adult Education, join us! There are different ways to "be transformed by the renewing of your minds." (Romans 12:2) This will be a chance to be transformed by a new understanding of Advent music.

Elder Kermit Lind
Ministry of Education & Spiritual Formation

News from the Web

Looking for an easier way to pay your pledge on a regular basis in the coming year? You can use your bank's automatic online banking services and set up Forest Hill Church as a regular payee. Unlike donations through services such as Paypal, Forest Hill receives 100% of the donated amount.

Automated bill paying is especially helpful when you may be away. And it saves you time and money since no stamps are required.

Online bill paying is offered free by most area banks. If you're new to online banking, direct links to the bill paying sites of local banks are listed at **<http://www.fhcpresb.org/about-us/giving/automatic-bank-payments/>**

Peg Weissbrod

Bible Jeopardy

The children in the Pathways to the Promise Land program have been exploring the story of Joseph. In one of the workshops the children participated in a Bible Jeopardy game. It is amazing what they know. I'd like to share some of the questions. Take a moment or two and see how well you can answer these questions.

PLACES	PEOPLE	DREAMS	TESTS	GENERAL BIBLE KNOWLEDGE
Where did Joseph's family live?	Who wore the multi-colored coat?	What crop was involved in Joseph's first dream?	What did Joseph do to his brothers to remind them of what they had done to him?	Who was the father of Joseph?
Where was Joseph brought to as a slave?	Who was Joseph's youngest brother?	What food did the cupbearer dream of?	Whom did Joseph imprison when the brothers first returned to Jacob?	Who was the first patriarch?
What nation did Joseph's family become?	What does the Bible call the family of Jacob?	What animal did the Pharaoh dream of?	What did Joseph confess to his brothers at the end?	What do we call the exit from Egypt in 400 years?

(Answers will be found on page 15)

Pantry Donations

Many members have kindly supported our FHC Pantry which provides food for neighbors who come to the church looking for cans, packaged groceries, bread and produce to feed their families. Please keep on giving. More of these guests are visiting the Pantry lately.

There are several ways to help:

- Bring canned or packaged goods to church.
- Write a check to FHC with a note for the amount to go to the Pantry Fund. (We have shoppers who find advantageous buys on quantities.)
- Buy a grocery card for your own shopping and a portion of that money will support the Pantry.

Forest Hill Church is known for hospitality. Let's continue that tradition.

Grace Uhle

School Supply Drive Wrap-up

Thank you to all of the generous donors of much-needed school supplies for Boulevard School. This year we donated:

65 folders	1,080 crayons
4,315 sheets of notebook paper	236 colored pencils
49 notebooks	126 markers
2 backpacks	34 pairs of underwear
85 erasers	60 pens
8 bottles of glue	15 pencil sharpeners
43 glue sticks	40 highlighters
2 rulers	452 pencils
5 pairs of scissors	

Thanks to the fantastic response, the children of Boulevard who would otherwise go without these much needed supplies have supplies to help them succeed! Thank you for your continued support of FHC's partnership with Boulevard Elementary School!

Christina Hidek and the Ministry of Justice & Mission

From the Financial Office

Your pledges and gifts for 2012 are coming in nicely, but we still are expecting to receive \$150,000 before the end of the year. Please refer to your recent statement for balances; you may always email or call Becky Austin, our Financial Administrator, for information (321-2660 x203, beckya@fhcpresb.org)

If you are planning on giving a stock gift, would you please set the sale in motion no later than December 12th? With the holidays and various office and bank closings, the extra time will insure that the stock can be sold and your gift properly credited to your statement. Forest Hill Church will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

If you have had an unexpected crisis and might be unable to fulfill your pledge this year, please contact Graham Peters, Treasurer, or Becky Austin, so that adjustments can be made as we begin to finalize spending and close the year.

With much appreciation for the time, talents and tithing you have given to the church this year, have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

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
Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

An Earth Care Christmas

As we look forward to this season of Advent and the celebration of Jesus' birth, we have great opportunity to show that we care in many ways to save God's creation. You've heard this clarion call before, but we should once again remind ourselves on how we can add to the spirit of Christmas by honoring environmental principles....

We can purchase and keep alive our Christmas trees – and then re-plant them. Our use of Christmas lights and other displays which use electricity – and hence depend on our use of depleting fossil fuels and their attendant carbon emissions – should be tempered. Gift wrapping paper, Christmas cards, and other paper products may be purchased from sustainable sources – and then recycled, not simply discarded. Gifts to family and friends are expressions of our love for one another – and can be obtained through Ten Thousand Villages and other developing country artisans, which provides economic benefit for their creators and therefore honor our Creator. Foods for our holiday table can be purchased from socially responsible companies, and from those who use organic production methods. We can also care for our creatures in the yard and garden – providing food for the birds, squirrels, rabbits and other living things which make up the complexity and enjoyment of the life we all share on this planet and who are also God's creatures.

Finally, as we celebrate the coming of Christ into this world and His annual re-birth, let us pray and pledge to re-dedicate ourselves to care for our earthly home with the three "R"s—Reduce, Re-use, Recycle in our actions not only during the holidays but also the coming year.

Dave Neff and your FHC Green Team

Once again we will decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to order one to honor or memorialize someone, please contact the church office.

Poinsettias are \$7 each and may be taken home after the 11 pm Christmas Eve service, or donated to be taken to shut-ins.



The Ten Thousand Villages Shop and Interfaith Peace-Builders sale returns to FHC on December 9. Holiday shopping for wonderful fair trade items from around the world as well as olive oil products from the Palestinian West Bank will be available from 9:30-11 and 12:15-1:30. These beautiful hand-made products are wonderful to receive and feel good to our souls as the purchase actually makes a difference in the lives of the artisans who made them. Volunteers are needed to help set up, sell and clean up. If you can help, please contact Jennifer Blakeney.

For more information about these organizations, go to <http://www.ifpb.org/> and <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/>

Bible Jeopardy Answers

PLACES	PEOPLE	DREAMS	TESTS	GENERAL BIBLE KNOWLEDGE
Canaan	Joseph	Wheat	Put them in prison	Jacob
Egypt	<i>Benjamin</i>	Bread	Simeon	Abraham
Israel	The Twelve Tribes	Cows	I am your brother	Exodus

News of Our Church Family

Please contact the church office if you need to reach someone associated with a church activity

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.

Forest Hill Deacons are:

Deb Adrine	Daryl Musick
Mary Ball	Richard Peterjohn
Barb Cloud	Carol Phillips
Carol Hopkins-Lutz	Ahren Stock
Carol Leslie	Julie Waring
Robin Mervine	Nancy Wyss

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Dick Bloomquist, Pat and Fran Drake, Betty Farnfield, Marge Drollinger, Dorothy Hales, Elizabeth Kosnik, Emelia McGuire, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters, Anne Taylor

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

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

Ushers

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

Volunteer Hours in October

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Karen Loughridge, Fran Thomas, Elspeth, Allie, Maggie and Laura Peterjohn – worked a total of 102¾ hours in October. Thank you all!

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (60s – 70s): Christmas Party

The Group will celebrate Christmas with a potluck dinner at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews. We will be supporting a Boulevard family again this year. Please contact Cathy Ghiandoni for a food assignment and gift suggestions. Main course will be provided; BYOB.

Friday, Dec. 14, Andrews' home, 6:00 pm

Pacesetters (40s – 60s): Christmas Party

Tis the season to be jolly

With Fred, Monique and Polly

"precious" gifties, past year's loot

Someone must have Santa's boot!

Food and drink are always pleasant

But most of all bring SELF and PRESENT!

BYOB and an hors d'oeuvres or dessert

ALSO CANNED GOODS FOR OUR PANTRY

Saturday, Dec. 15, Lentz home, 7-10 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church):

We will be doing our last minute Christmas shopping at Ten Thousand Villages, 12425 Cedar Road in Cleveland Hts. Shopping will begin at 11:00 and we'll go to Nighttown for lunch afterwards. Please contact Cathy Ghiandoni for reservations and directions.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 11:00 am, Ten Thousand Villages

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A New Christmas Story

T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the barn,
the animals were stirring, for they'd heard a new yarn.
A babe was a-coming, and soon to be born,
right there among them, before the new morn.

The babe would become mighty, a King among Kings,
and the animals all thought, 'what a marvelous thing!'
Just then two travelers, named Joseph and Mary,
entered the stable and began to make ready.

For they were sent by God, their mission sublime –
the straw and the stable, would suit them just fine.
And shepherds in fields, tending flocks by night,
knew that something was up, when they saw a bright light.

A star in the heavens was moving quite fast,
and appeared to grow larger as it beckoned them past.
They knew in an instant, they'd better be quick,
and follow the star, 'cause this wasn't a trick.

Soon they arrived, at the most simple stable,
and were met with a sight that history would fable.
The star shown above them, giving light down below,
creating for all a most special glow.

The baby was birthing, the donkey was braying;
the cattle were lowing, the sheep were baa-baaing.
Now wise guys afar—no, not the ones from New Jersey –
were moved to consider, how they could be worthy.....

So they followed the Star, and went straight to the stable,
each bearing gifts of which they were able
Melchior with gold, Gaspar with myrrh,
Balthazar with frankincense – and scholars concur---

They came not that night, but later in time –
though that is quite useful in completing this rhyme.
And everyone wondered, just what the birth meant—
but soon the whole world, would know this event.

The Angels on high began a great chorus,

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

proclaiming God's son, was now 'ere before us.
 Yes Jesus had come, the point of this story,
 sent to earth by God, to proclaim all His glory.

The wise guys then knelt, before the babe in the manger,
 for they knew then that He, had come as their Savior.
 And they were heard to exclaim as they rode out of sight,
 Merry Christmas to all – God's gift for this night.

Dave Neff (the Bard of Willoughby)

Advent and Christmas at Forest Hill Church, 2012

Sundays at 9:30

Adult Education: Advent Alleluia! Advent and Christmas hymns and music

December 2, 12 – 3 pm: Lunch and Advent Workshop

December 9, 9:30 am – 1 pm:

Ten Thousand Villages and Interfaith Peace-Builders shop

December 16, 9:30 am – 1 pm:

Cookie Walk (Youth mission trip fund-raiser)

December 16, 11 am: Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 24-25: Office closed

December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm Family Worship

10:45 Musical Prelude

11 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

December 30, 11 am: Worship in Fellowship Hall

December 30-January 1: Office closed

Ministries will meet on December 5

Session will meet on December 19

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
 That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Sundays in December

9:00 Child care begins

9:30 Adult and Youth education

Descant Choir

10:00 Cherub Choir (Dec. 2, 16)

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) (KISS, Dec. 2 and 16)

12:15 Coffee Hour

Sine Nomine Choir (Gr. 6-12) Dec. 2, 9

5:00 Faith Leader (no class Dec. 23, 30)

*There are no
 classes or choirs
 on
 December 30*

December 2	1 Advent	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
11:00	Worship: Communion	Psalms 25: 1-10
12:15	Lunch	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
1:00	Advent Workshop	Luke 21: 25-36
December 9	2 Advent	Baruch 5: 1-9
10:00	Ten Thousand Villages gift sale	Luke 1: 68-79
7:00	Youth: <i>CONVERGE!</i> at First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Boulevard, Shaker Hts	Philippians 1: 3-11
December 16	3 Advent	Luke 3: 1-6
11:00	Festival of Lessons and Carols	Zephaniah 3: 14-20
12:00	Youth: Cookie Walk	Isaiah 12: 2-6
December 23	4 Advent	Philippians 4: 4-7
		Luke 3: 7-18
December 30	1 Christmas	Micah 5: 2-5a
	No classes or choirs	Luke 1: 46b-55
11:00	Worship in Fellowship Hall	Hebrews 10: 5-10
		Luke 1: 39-45
		1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26
		Psalms 148
		Colossians 3: 12-17
		Luke 2: 41-52