

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

January 2013

From the Pastor...

When you read this you will be somewhere within the 12 days of Christmas: between the birth of Christ (December 25) and the coming of Magi known as Epiphany (January 6), between "a partridge in a pear tree" and "12 drummers drumming." According to the **Plain Dealer**, it would cost you over \$107,000 to buy all the gifts named in the famous song! Just give me the golden rings, and perhaps a pair of turtle doves to accompany them.

On Epiphany, the wise men came with gifts, looking for the King. As they peered at the baby Jesus they must have been filled with more questions than answers. A prayer by Walter Brueggemann describes well, I think, the questions and longings of both the Magi and us.

On Epiphany day,
we are still the people walking.
We are still people in the dark,
and the darkness looms large around us,
beset as we are by fear,
anxiety,
brutality,
violence,
loss –

We are – we could be—people of your light.
So we pray for the light of your glorious presence
as we wait for your appearing;
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace
as we exhaust our coping capacity;
we pray for your gift of newness
that will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust
in your good rule.

That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact
your rule all through the demands of this day.

We submit our day to you and to your rule,
with deep joy and high hope.

Prayers for a Privileged People

As we move past Epiphany into the new year, may we be people of light!

God bless you,



Dr. John Lentz
Senior Pastor

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 ways Christmas is celebrated in the world. Thank you all who were apart of these classes.

- In our Nursery, thank you to Jill Roberts, Virginia Weiss, Melinda Dus & Curtis Jastremsky, and Becky West.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Emily Curry, Susanne & Laura Peterjohn.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Jen Fu.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land program, thank you to Beth Garrett, Joanne Shaner and Cathy Ghiandoni.

Thank you to Beth Zych for her time and vision as our director in our 2012 Family Christmas Eve pageant. It promises 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. Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck will be leading in the *Little Explorers* class and Lisa Koops and Jessica Kelley-Moore 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 the *Samaritan Women at the Well*. Through an encounter with Jesus Christ, the Samaritan Woman at the Well is transformed from an outcast to an evangelist. She boldly witnesses that Jesus is the Christ. The woman offers a window to the transforming power of a personal relationship with Jesus. The children will explore this theme through cooking, storytelling and art.

Confirmation

What is it? What does it mean? Is it a beginning or ending?

These are some of the questions our Confirmation class will be exploring during a 17-week study of Confirmation. The class will participate in Sunday morning classes, bible study and service projects, and will attend other faiths' worship services. They will also attend a Ministry or Session meeting. They will explore what it means to be a Presbyterian, learn more about spiritual gifts, discuss sacraments, and begin to mold a faith statement. Twelve Confirmands and their Covenant Partners will begin this journey at the retreat January 11-13. Confirmation Sunday is May 17. Please keep those involved—Confirmands, Covenant Partners, families and teachers—in your prayers as we take this journey called *Confirmation*.

This year's Confirmands are Edie Duncan, Blake Himes, Claire Jesberger, Caleb Marcy, Katie Muller-Girard, Cameron Peters, Hal Roosa, Andrew Schellenberg, Ben Stadler, Jacob Stauffer, Trent Swain, and Molly Webster.

Dates to Know

January 6 Confirmation brunch after worship

January 11-13 Confirmation Retreat

January 6 **KISS** - Children attend worship with their families to celebrate the Lord's Supper

January 13 **Gathering Time** - Pathways to the Promise Land children begin in the Chapel at 11:00, and will be escorted to their workshops with their Shepherds

January 20 & 27 Children begin in worship, and will be excused to go to their workshops

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. Curriculums are 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

Dear Forest Hill Friends,



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

On January 6, we look forward to singing *We Three Kings* as our three FHC kings journey down the aisle, decked out in their beautiful flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapié) as they offer their glittering treasures to the Christ Child.

During January we will have a couple of scintillating experiences to break the winter doldrums. First, our Forest Hill Steel Drum Band will be accompanying a Caribbean praise song sung by the Sine Nomine Choir. Many thanks to Rowan Trammell, Ian Zych, Will Burleigh, Grant Heineman and Patty Console for mastering this song, and to Barry Hartz who will lay down the bass line on the electric guitar. Second, members of the Sine Nomine Choir will present a biblical story in tableaux, a technique they learned when the drama group *Friends of the Groom* was here in November. This tableau series was presented at the *Converge* service at First Baptist Church on December 9, and all agreed that this way of interpreting scripture makes a big impact.

Coming in February are two **A.W.E.** services (Alternative Worship Experiences).

- On the 10th, we'll welcome a Dixieland Band playing old time hymns in New Orleans-style rhythms. This is the last Sunday before Lent and two days before Mardi Gras, so it's a good Sunday to celebrate!
- On the 24th, Inlet Dance Theatre will be with us (Bill Wade, director). Many of you will remember their moving interpretations of a Bach fugue and Lord of the Dance last year.

Soli Deo Gloria

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne".

Anne Wilson, Organist, Director of Music
216-321-2660, annew@fhcpresb.org

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

FHC Youth News

Sunday Morning Youth

Sunday morning youth classes continue this winter for 6th and 7th graders. We will meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Koinonia Room to study the life of Jesus through the Gospel of John.

Due to confirmation class, there will be no senior high Sunday morning youth classes. Senior highs not in confirmation class are encouraged to attend adult education on Sunday mornings.

"Accepting Others" at Converge

Converge meets for the first time in 2013 on January 13. Chagrin Falls UMC is sponsoring the January Converge with the theme of "Accepting Others." The offering will be new or nearly-new toys and books to be donated to a battered women's shelter. Youth, families, and adults are all welcome at **Converge**.

Join us January 13, 2013 at 7 pm at First Baptist Church (3630 Fairmount).

Fun & Fellowship in January

Let's go Tobogganing!

We will gather at 5:30 pm on January 5, 2013 for a night of winter fun. Bring \$10 for admission. Friends are welcome to join us.

Movie Night

On Sunday January 20, enjoy the long weekend with a movie night at the church. We will meet at 6:30 pm. Bring snacks to share! All youth and friends are welcome.

Nicaragua Mission Trip Signups Due January 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. The participant cost is \$400. The commitment form and a \$100 deposit are due January 20, 2013 (no exceptions!).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen".

Kristen Otte, FHC Director of Youth Ministries

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**Career and Calling:
A Program for High School Juniors, Seniors
and Young Adults 18-22**

You are invited to be a part of a new six-week exploration of Career and Calling – a conversation-based small-group program designed to help you discover your unique gifts, learn how to hear God's call to you, and understand how these things just might lead you toward a future career that fits the person you really are. "C&C" is a series of six 90-minute weekly sessions (beginning February 10)... and you will benefit most from C&C if you can attend EVERY ONE of the six sessions. Elders Eric Muller-Girard and Elaine Turley will lead the weekly workshops. Please contact the church office for more information.

The Youth of Forest Hill Church Invite You To...

Come to FHC for a special dinner and auction. Members of the congregation are asked to team up to donate themed baskets for the auction (such Chocolate Lovers, A Night at the Movies, and Game Night). In addition, special one-item donations will be accepted (such as artwork or coupons for a service you can offer. Be creative!). We would love your help collecting donations and bringing people in the doors on the 24th. All profits will support the Nicaragua trip this summer. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this great event!

Buy Stock in Our Youth

This summer the youth are traveling to Leon, Nicaragua to spend a week serving others while learning about social justice, advocacy and poverty. We will be selling stock to raise money for the mission trip. For \$20, investors purchase a share of one of the participants. As an investor, you commit to praying for your student throughout the year and into the summer. Investors are welcome to attend planning meetings and fundraisers. Finally, investors are invited to an ice cream social to hear about the experience in Nicaragua shortly after we return. If you are interested in purchasing stock, pick up an investment form from Kristen Otte.

Adult Education: January and February, 2013

"Growing in the Life of Faith"

- January 6** Introduction to Faith Development
Ms. Kate Gilooly, Minister of Christian Formation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Hts.
- January 13** Children's spiritual growth
- January 20** Adolescents' spiritual growth
- January 27** Young adults' sp growth
- February 3** Mid-life and spiritual growth
- February 10** Retirement and spiritual growth

***"Early Christianity and Rome"*
Mondays, 7:30 pm.**

All are welcome to the four sessions we are offering to prepare for the pilgrimage to Rome. These sessions will be educational and engaging. Please come and bring a friend!

- January 7** Dr. John Lentz Video and Discussion
PBS's "Empires –The Roman Empire in the First Century"
- January 14** Dr. John Lentz Video and Discussion
PBS's "Empires—Peter and Paul and the Christian Revolution"
- January 28** Dr. Tim Beal "Layers upon Layers"
Introduction to the archaeological layers of Christianity in Rome: early communities of faith, house churches, and the rise of Christianity.
- February 11** Fr. Dr. George Smiga, St. Noel Church (RC)
Fr. Smiga will focus on the works of art we will see in Rome. The pieces will range from the early Roman period through the Renaissance.

**Empowered Parenting
with Amy Speidel**

What do YOU do when your child/teen stomps to his/her room and slams the door after yet another confrontation?

What do YOU say to your child/teen when you know they are hurting and confused?

What do YOU say to your wife/husband when you don't agree on consequences?

How do YOU show your child/teen your spirituality?

Ever felt at a loss for how to deal with power struggles and/or defiance?

What do YOU do when you just don't have the "tools" to re-establish communication with your child/teen?

Sundays, February 3, 10, 17

9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Childcare will be available.

Empowered Parenting—We upgrade cell phones and computers. Now it's time to upgrade the tools we use when helping children work through conflict and personal frustration. Learn the Conscious Discipline® principles that are based on current brain research and transform your home into a place of connection and cooperation.

Register before January 13

\$30 per couple or \$20 per person for the series

After January 13

\$50 per couple or \$30 per person for the series

Open to the public! Tell a friend.

YOU MUST REGISTER to participate in the series

Please contact Liz Wollaeger (lizw@fhcpresb.org or 216-321-2660).

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Amy Speidel comes to you as a presenter with 20+ years of Early Childhood experience as a teacher, director and parent educator. She earned the distinction of Teacher of the Year from the Cleveland Association for the Education of Young Children in May, 2000 and is a Loving Guidance Associate as well as a certified Parent Coach and presenter for Senders Parenting Center, the educational wing of Senders Pediatrics. She works extensively with teachers, parents, pediatricians, nurses and others in the medical field.

Amy brings a humorous and insightful perspective to her presentations by sharing many personal insights about the challenges and delights of children. Having been a foster parent, a birth parent and an adoptive parent, Amy knows the beauty and the mess of the journey with children. As a presenter, she offers you a meaningful perspective of how the skills and strategies of Conscious Discipline® can support you every step of the way.

***The Annual Meeting of
the Congregation is
January 27, 2013***

New Officers to be Elected

Forest Hill Church Elders

Kara Schellenberg: Elder, Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation (15)

Kara has been a member of FHC for 18½ years. She has served FHC as an active participant in all children's programs from nursery through Pathways. Kara works in a doctor's office, has been married to John Schellenberg for 22 years, and has two sons and a dog. She enjoys reading and taking walks.

Jack Breisch: Elder, Ministry of Justice and Mission (15)

Anna Brock: Youth Elder, Ministry of Justice and Mission (13)

Ron Polderman: Elder, Ministry of Leadership and Vocation (15)

Ron has been a member of FHC for 13 years. He has served FHC as a deacon, elder, trustee and choir-member. Ron is a psychologist at Benedictine High School; he and his wife Carol have two daughters, Beth Zelnik and Sarah Smith-Polderman.

Matt Russo: Elder, Ministry of Leadership and Vocation (14)

Scott Peters: Elder, Ministry of Stewardship (15)

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Cliff Kowall: Elder, Trustees (15)

Julie Wolfram Smith: Elder, Ministry of Worship (15)

Julie attended FHC for 6 years before joining in June 2012. She has served FHC as a choir member and a member of the Young Adults group. Julie has a PhD from Case Western and is working on a postdoctoral fellowship in heart disease; she would like to work in the biomedical industry. She and her husband Andy Smith, a neurology resident at University Hospital, were married last spring.

FHC Trustees

Ralph Jean-Mary (15)

Eric Rich (15)

FHC Deacons

Joan Bacon (15)

Mary McMillan (15)

Mary has been a member of FHC for 8 years. She has served FHC as trustee and a Family Promise volunteer. Mary is the Director of Finance and Operations of the Cleveland Zoological Society, and Treasurer of Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center.

Pat Musick (filling an unexpired term for one year) (13)

Victoria Sampson (15)

FHC Nominating Committee

Cathy Ghiandoni

Cathy has been a member of FHC for 32 years. She has served FHC as a deacon, Elder, member of the nominating committee, wedding coordinator, office volunteer and Pathways teacher; she is a member of Iris Circle and The Group. Cathy is a retired math teacher.

Paula Harvey

Paula has attended FHC for 71 years and has been a member for the past 60 years! She has served FHC as a deacon, Elder, head of the Nominating Committee, and church school teacher. Paula is a retired teacher, and enjoys golf, horseback and bicycle riding, reading and travelling. She is married to FHC member Tom Harvey; between them they have two children and 6 grandchildren.

Vikki Nowak

Vikki has been a member of FHC for 6 years. She has served FHC as a Family Promise volunteer, a member of the Conversations on Race, and a Pathways teacher. She is a graduate of the Faith Leader program. Vikki is a strategic program director at Nottingham Spirk, a business innovation firm. She is married to Todd Webster; between them they have three children: Trent, Ethan and Molly

David Peterjohn

Jim Roosa

Jim has been a member of FHC for 6 years. He has served FHC as an Elder and a trustee. Jim attends FHC with his two children, Halling and Lili.

FHC Elected Leaders

Lane Baldwin: Ministry of Justice and Mission

Lane has been a member of FHC since March 2012. She is a photographer and owner of Lane Baldwin Photography, and is married to Nathan (see below). They have been married just over a year and are new to the Cleveland area. Lane enjoys being creative, gymnastics, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Nathan Baldwin: Ministry of Justice and Mission

Nathan has also been a member of FHC since March 2012. He is an energy engineer with URS Corporation, and is married to Lane (see above). He enjoys skiing, riding his motorcycle, jogging, and working on the house.

Kay Dunlap: Ministry of Justice and Mission

Clayton Minder: Ministry of Stewardship

News from the Web

Did you know the weekly worship bulletin is usually online by the Thursday before Sunday, so you can get a head start on reading all those weekly announcements? There's a link to it on the right hand side of [our home page](#).

Sundays in January

9:00 Child care begins
9:30 Adult education
 Youth education & Confirmation class (Jan 20, 27)
 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)
 (KISS, Jan 6; Gathering time, Jan 13)
12:15 Coffee Hour
 Sine Nomine Choir (Gr. 6-12) Jan 13 & 20
5:00 Faith Leader

January 6 Epiphany of the Lord 9:00 Budget Committee 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:30 Confirmation Brunch	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12
January 13 Baptism of the Lord 7:00 Youth: <i>CONVERGE!</i> at First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Boulevard, Shaker Hts	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 20 6:30 Youth: Movie Night at FHC	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11
January 27 12:15 Lunch 12:45 Annual Meeting of the Congregation 4:30 Labre Project	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21

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News of Our Church Family

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

New members

The following people were received into membership on December 2, 2013:

Carrie Fister (Eden CARE Group)
Nancy Lyon-Stadler (Mt. Sinai CARE Group)
Ted Mueller (Bethlehem CARE Group)
Lorraine Ranchod (Eden CARE Group)
Kristin and Daniel Smith (Jordan CARE Group)

Contact information for them will be found in the updated picture directory, usually located on the small table under the clock in the Garden Foyer. You may also contact the office for addresses, emails and phone numbers.

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.

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, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Dorothy Hales, Elizabeth Kosnik, Emelia McGuire, Merdine T. Morris, Elaine Tapié, Joyce Peters, Anne Taylor

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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 in January

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

Volunteer Hours in November

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, Kristin Smith and Fran Thomas – worked a total of 73¼ hours in November. Thank you all!

Social Groups and Circles

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

The Back Row (20s – 40s) Post-Holiday Social

The Hideks will host a post-holiday social at their house on Saturday evening, January 5 at 7 pm. Leave the kids behind, bring a dish to share and enjoy the new year. RSVP to Jason or Christina

January 5, Hideks' house, 7 pm

Pacesetters (40s – 60s): Planning Party

Bring your dreams and ideas for 2013 to Chris and Dave Bell's on Saturday, January 12 at 7:00 pm. Bring an appetizer or a dessert, and perhaps something to drink – no Pacesetter event is complete without food! If you can't be there in person, please let us know your thoughts for what we should do this year. RSVP to Chris or Dave Bell.

January 12, Bells' house, 7 pm

Announcements! Announcements!

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!
Contact your bank to set up on-line bill pay.

TOWER deadlines:
7 am on
January 18, 2013
February 15
March 15

You are invited to join the next Pantry Fellowship Breakfast, to be held on Monday, December 31 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall. Join the hosts and guests for a delicious hot breakfast. Bring a dish to share if you wish. RSVP to the church office.

CDs of worship services are available – contact the office – or find the audio on the website

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), anew@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