

## Forest Hill Church

The Tower

March 2013

### ***From the Pastor...***

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of Lent now. Easter (March 31) is on the horizon. Have you been following any Lenten devotion or trying any prayer practices? It is not too late to start.

Deanne and I have been using the devotional from Upper Room Books entitled ***A Guide to Prayer for all God's People***, edited by Rueben Job and Norman Shawchuck. Each morning we take our coffee into the living room and read the prayers and bible passages.

There was one particular entry, in fact it was the first entry of the first day of Lent, that has continued to agitate me deeply. Richard Foster, the author of ***Freedom of Simplicity***, writes:

*The Desert Fathers renounced speech in order to learn compassion... Silence frees us from the need to control others. One reason we can hardly bear to remain silent is that it makes us feel so helpless. We are accustomed to relying upon words to manage and control others. A frantic stream of words flows from us in an attempt to straighten others out. We want so desperately for them to agree with us, to see things our way. We evaluate people, judge people, condemn people. We devour people with our words. Silence is one of the deepest Disciplines of the Spirit simply because it puts the stopper on that.*

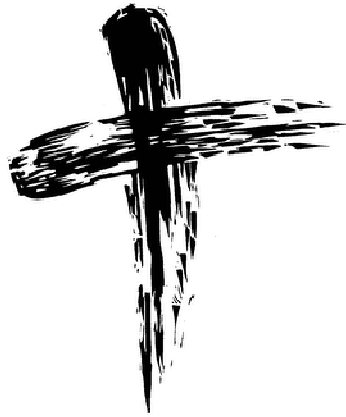
I am trying to be more careful with my speech and more aware of the words I use. I want to listen better. For a preacher, this is hard. We make our living out of words. But it makes sense that I should listen before I speak, and attempt to hear that “still small voice” before I become enamored by the sound of my own voice.

Our world is filled with so many words, but it is the gentle words of love from God that we yearn to hear. So talk less and listen more.

God bless you,



John C. Lentz, Jr  
Sr. Pastor



### *FHC Lenten Programs*

#### *Worship*

**Songs for the Wilderness: A contemplative, participatory worship service**

**7 pm, Wednesday, March 13**

This will be a Taizé-inspired service fostering contemplation of our relationship with our Awesome God. Take this opportunity to draw apart into God's presence to draw strength amidst life's challenges, as Jesus did. Rev. Michelle Jean-Mary and Jennifer Blakeney will be worship leaders.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**

6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Worship

## *Adult Education: Suffering and the Crisis of Faith*

**March 3:** Tim Beal, Ph.D. "Job and the Problem of Pain," Part I

**March 10:** Film: "Through a Lens Darkly: Grief, Loss and C.S. Lewis"

Grief doesn't have to feel like fear. Those facing personal devastation can find a path to healing. In this film, ordinary people touched by significant loss but who have also begun their journey to recovery share their thoughts on the timeless wisdom of C.S. Lewis's most personal and reflective book, *A Grief Observed*. This film uplifts the soul.

**March 17:** Elder Chris Henry: "My Journey with God through Suffering"

Chris will speak personally about the suicide of her young adult son ten years ago. She will share her remarkable journey from profound grief toward healing and recovery through her experience of God's partnership in her suffering.

**March 24:** Tim Beal, Ph.D., "Job and the Problem of Pain," Part II

### *Lenten Dinner Program: Wednesday, February 27*

6:30 pm Soup and Bread Supper; 7:15 pm Lecture and discussion

#### **Anger toward God: A Response to Suffering**

Julie J. Exline, Ph. D.

Associate Professor of Psychology

Case Western Reserve University

Continuing with our Lenten series on "Suffering and the Crisis of Faith," Dr. Exline's talk will give a brief overview of the topic of anger toward God. Although such anger is common, the topic is often veiled in secrecy and fear, leaving people isolated if they experience such feelings. The presentation will identify situations in which anger toward God tends to arise, as well as certain thought patterns, family background factors, and personality styles that make such anger more likely. Controversial issues will be raised, such as the question of whether anger toward God is morally acceptable and the finding that some nonbelievers report anger around the idea of God. Strategies will also be presented to help people cope with anger toward God.

## *From the Clover patch...*

Dear friends,

One of my favorite authors is a Presbyterian minister and author (who many of you know too), Frederick Buechner. Buechner has these words and some very challenging questions for Lent. I encourage you to take seriously these questions for these forty days.

*In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.*

*If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?*

*When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?*

*If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?*

*Of all the things you have done in our life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?*

*Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?*

*If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?*

*To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sack-cloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.*

*Buechner, **Listening to Your Life***

May we use these 40 days to ask ourselves what might be The Question that life calls us to answer: what does it mean to be myself?

May you trust God's presence with you in your Lenten journey of exploration.



Clover Beal  
Associate Pastor  
Director of Lay Leadership

## **Children Ministries**

February was a busy month as the children and youth explored Jesus' ministry. Our youngest children participated in activities about Jesus' parables and early teachings. The Pathways to the Promise Land children participated in activities that centered on Handel's *Messiah*.

- In our nursery, thank you to Emily Wollaeger, Sarah Tan, Katie Russo, Jeremy Ryman, Jill Roberts, Edie & Nora Duncan.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Susanne & Laura Peterjohn and Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Joanne & Dan Shaner, Jessica Kelley-Moore and Cindy Fink & Kemp Jaycox.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Beth Garrett, Danielle Cosgrove, David Peterjohn, Matt & Sarah Winters and Barb Cloud.

## **Children's Christian Education**

**Little Explorers** – three and four year olds

**Children in Worship** - older four year olds and kindergarten

In March the children in these classes will be exploring and participating in Bible stories about the parables and Jesus' teachings. Each lesson has an activity response to the story to help them better understand the meaning. Jen Fu will be leading the *Children in Worship* class.

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

The next theme for this group is a Lenten focus of *Mary Magdalene*. Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus returned her to her true identity. Her presence at the cross testifies to her devotion to Jesus. Her witness of the resurrection proclaims the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen. The children will participate in an art, story, movement workshops.

## **Confirmation**

Please keep our Confirmands and Covenant Partners in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their focus of Faith Journeys in their classes. The classes have begun to discern how scripture impacts our lives and our spiritual gifts; we've also explored "Who is Jesus". Thank you to facilitators Peg Weissbrod, Dr. Tim Beal, and Pastor John Lentz.

## **Dates to Know**

**No classes on Easter, March 31**

**March 3 Gathering Time** – Children in grades 1-5 will meet in the Chapel at 11:00 then be excused to their workshops with their shepherds.

**March 6 & 20 Confirmation Bible Studies** – Meet in the Koinonia Room 7:30-8:30

**March 10, 17, & 24** Children in grades 1-5 will be dismissed during worship to their workshops.

**March 10 & 24 Cherub Choir**– Preschoolers and kindergarteners meet for fun, movement and songs. Meet in Room 204 at 10:00. The Cherub Choir will be singing the introit for the Palm Sunday worship.

Faithfully,



Liz Wollaeger  
Director of Christian Education



## Music

Four of the six Lenten Sundays fall in March this year, and the music will reflect the more contemplative atmosphere of this liturgical season.

Please welcome Lynn Balaze, our guest organist for two Sundays in March. Lynn holds a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and is the mother of two darling daughters. On March 10, I will be in Lincoln, Nebraska, serving as Youth Choir Clinician at a church music conference. I will also be playing organ and piano in a recital broadcast live on NPR (Pipedreams)—so wish me luck! On March 17, I will be on tour with the Heights High choirs and we will sing for worship at St. Bartholomew's Church (commonly called St. Bart's) in NYC. I am greatly appreciative that several choir members are stepping up to help out with conducting the Chancel Choir and leading the Descant Choir rehearsals.

Upon my return, I look forward to immersing myself in the rigors and joys of Holy Week starting with Palm Sunday on March 24 and ending with Easter on March 31.

Mark your calendars for our annual ***Swing to the Lord a New Song*** service on **Sunday, April 7 at 7:30 pm**. The choirs and congregation will be accompanied by a jazz combo made up of trombonist Paul Ferguson (my brother), trumpeter Jack Schantz, bassist Dave Morgan, pianist Rock Wehrman, and drummer Val Kent. This is always a particularly lively and joyous event, and I hope you will invite your friends. A festive reception will follow.

Please note that Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10, so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour and go to bed early the night before!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Anne Wilson

Organist, Director of Music

# FHC Youth Report

## **Sunday Morning Youth**

Sunday morning youth continues this winter for our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Senior highs not in confirmation class are encouraged to attend adult education on Sunday mornings.

## **Maddlines at Converge**

Sponsored by First Assembly in Lyndhurst, our March Converge will be another powerful night. Christian rapper and youth pastor Tra Whitfield, aka Maddlines, will be performing and leading the message. In addition, First Assembly's worship band, led by senior high youth Nate Diamond, will lead worship. Our offering for March is nonperishable food items such as canned soup, peanut butter and cereal. First Assembly's youth group will deliver the offering to families in need. It's going to be another special night of worship at Converge! Invite your friends and join us March 10 at 7 pm at First Baptist Church!

## **Nicaragua Mission Trip Meeting**

Youth and adults participating in the Nicaragua Mission Trip this summer will meet once a month to prepare for the trip. Our second meeting is March 3rd from 4:00 – 5:30 pm at the church. If you can't make the meeting, please talk to Kristen.



Kristen Otte  
Director of Youth Ministries



*A Gentle Reminder from  
Trustees...*

Just as you rely on a monthly paycheck in order to pay your monthly bills at home, so your church...our church... does too. We need to have cash coming in each month to pay our hard-working staff, to pay our bills on time and to keep our building safe and sound for all who enter. Please consider paying your pledge on a monthly basis if possible. This will really help us as the year progresses.

Thanks so much,

Elder Rosanna Sprague  
Trustee

**Do you have the gift of hospitality?  
Join the ushers!**

The Ushers are seeking volunteers to add to the group of people who welcome and assist worshippers at FHC each Sunday. The ushers are a key part of the gracious hospitality that the church offers to both visitors and regular worshippers. Ushering is a good opportunity for any member, young or old, new or seasoned, to deepen your involvement and get to know fellow members.

If you are interested in meeting and greeting people as well as being attentive to the needs of the congregation during worship services, please contact the church office or Roger Heineman, Head Usher (216-440-0913 or [rheineman@jencen.com](mailto:rheineman@jencen.com)), or stop by the table in Fellowship Hall on any of the first three Sundays in March.

Elder Elizabeth Shaw  
Ministry of Worship

In the month of April, Adult Education will put a spotlight on some of our congregation's ministries. Each presentation will offer an opportunity to see in detail how mission groups are living out the Core Values of Forest Hill Church and to hear how those engaged in these ministries are being enriched as they give.

April 7 – ministries to the homeless: Family Promise and the Labre ministry  
April 14 – the Food Pantry and Abundance Gardens  
April 21 – the Green Team will present an Earth Day program

Elder Kermit Lind, Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation

# News of Our Church Family

## **In Memoriam We Remember**

Frederick Bruce Woodridge (Ted), who died January 25, 2013

## **New emails**

Chuck Smith: [chuck@afewgoodsmiths.com](mailto:chuck@afewgoodsmiths.com)

Tom Zych: [tzychfamily@gmail.com](mailto:tzychfamily@gmail.com)

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

Members of the Jericho CARE Group are:

Carol Phillips, Deacon Leader	Elizabeth Farnfield
Janet Banis	Bev Gairing
Nick & Phyllis Baumgartner	Tom & Paula Harvey
Jennifer Blakeney,	Alec & Nancy Jamieson
Marius Juodisius & family	Eunice Manu
Jack & Mary Ann Breisch	Twanda Petterson
Robert & Wendy Brock & family	Carol Phillips & family
David & Kate Burleigh & family	Jean Seeley
Joseph & Janet Dauer	JT & Sarah Tan & family
Larry Dorod	Liz Wollaeger & family
Marge Drollinger	

## **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, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié, 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 January**

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn and Fran Thomas – worked a total of 60.5 hours in January. **Thank you all!**

## ***A note of thanks from Diana Woodbridge:***

What a wonderful church community I am blessed to be part of! Thanks to the many, many of you who attended the service and reception in celebration of Ted's life. What an uplift to our spirits that provided! It was a wonderful celebration, one we will remember and cherish for some time to come. Thanks also for your prayers, some over many months and even years, and thanks as well for all your cards and notes, your calls to see how I am doing, warm hugs, and all the ways in which you expressed your genuine concern and care.

A special thank-you is due Elspeth Peterjohn and Dene Young for so elegantly managing the reception after Ted's service. While I am certain they do not expect or seek public recognition, it is so well-deserved that I had to share. I had absolutely nothing to worry about or to do because these two incredible women took over and did it all, and they made the reception celebration a lovely occasion for all. As my granddaughter said, "it was sad, but it was fun." That is the way Ted would have wanted it, for sure. What a wonderful and meaningful behind-the-scene ministry Elspeth and Dene provide! I am ever so grateful.

## BUY STOCK IN OUR YOUTH

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

### *Social Groups and Circles*

#### **The Group (60s – 70s): Planning Potluck**

We have been to a Captains baseball game, sampled beer, loved art and music, provided a special Christmas for a Boulevard family, cheered for the Super Bowl and enjoyed good food and fellowship. We will plan our next years of "Group" activities with a potluck dinner and the Khourys'. Call or email Zivile for food assignment (440 461-8235 or [zivile@gmail.com](mailto:zivile@gmail.com)).

Please bring brochures and ideas for our planning. If you cannot attend please let her know what programs you are interested in.

**Saturday March 9, 6:30 p.m.**

**Allan and Zivile Khoury's, 930 Worton Park Dr., Mayfield**

#### **Hilltoppers (retired): Hunger in Our Neighborhood**

Lunch of soup, cheese and bread will be served.

Lorraine Ranchod will then present the program: **Hunger in Our Neighborhood** – an overview of the exciting recent growth of the FHC pantry food distribution, garden and monthly breakfast. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Please let us know if you are coming by calling Betty Clark (216-531-3575) or Grace Uhle (216-514-0304).

**Friday, March 22, FHC, 12:00 noon**

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

We will be reviewing good books we have read over the past year. Do you have a book you would like to recommend to other women? We are looking for good reads. We will each take three minutes and give a quick synopsis.

**Tuesday, March 19, 1:00 pm,**

**Nancy Grube's, 5261 Graham Dr., Lyndhurst**

## ***Announcements! Announcements!***

*You can find on the website:*

- Copies of the bulletins and Towers (pdfs)
- Audios of portions of the worship services
- Upcoming events
- Pictures of FHC activities

**TOWER** deadlines:

7 am on  
March 15  
April 12  
May 17

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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

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

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

## Sundays in March

***Classes and children/youth choirs will not meet on Easter, March 31***

**9:00** Child care begins  
**9:30** Adult and Youth Education  
 Confirmation  
 Descant Choir  
**10:00** Cherub Choir (March 10, 24)  
**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) (11:00, March 10)  
**12:15** Coffee Hour  
 Sine Nomine Choir (Gr. 6-12) March 3, 24  
**5:00** Faith Leader  
 Career and Calling (6:30 on March 3)

### **March 3**

### **Lent 3**

**8:30** Nominating Committee  
**11:00** Worship: Baptism of Ryan Batcheller  
**12:45** Recital: Students of Anne Wilson  
**4:00** Youth: Nicaragua Trip meeting

**Isaiah 55: 1-9**  
**Psalm 63: 1-8**  
**1 Corinthians 10: 1-13**  
**Luke 13: 1-9**



### **March 10**

### **Lent 4**

**5:00** Boy Scout Troop 403: Dinner  
**7:00** Converge! at First Baptist Church

**Joshua 5: 9-12**  
**Psalm 32**  
**2 Corinthians 5: 16-21**  
**Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32**

### **March 17**

### **Lent 5**

**12:15** Blood Pressure check

**Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 108**

### **March 24**

### **Palm Sunday**

**8:30** Nominating Committee

**Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2: 5-11; Luke 22:14 – 23:56**

### **March 31**

### **EASTER**

**9:00** Worship: Communion  
**11:00** Worship: Communion  
**No classes or children/youth choirs**  
**5:40** Labre Project

**Acts 10: 34-43**  
**Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24**  
**1 Corinthians 15: 19-26**  
**John 20: 1-18**

# The Glory of These Forty Days

87

ERHALT UNS, HERR LM

Gregory the Great (540–604)  
Trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days We  
2. A - lone and fast - ing, Mo - ses saw The  
3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, De -  
4. Then grant that we like them be true, Con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; For Christ, by whom all  
lov - ing God who gave the law; And to E - li - jah,  
liv - ered from the li - on's might; And John, the Bride - groom's  
sumed in fast and prayer with You; Our spir - its strength-en

things were made, Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
fast - ing, came The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
friend, be - came The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
with Your grace, And give us joy to see Your face.

♩-76-84

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