

## Forest Hill Church

The Tower

July-August 2013

Dear Friends,

***From  
the  
Pastor***

I have read ***Sojourners*** Magazine for years (FHC has a subscription in the library) and have always thought highly of Jim Wallis, the founder and CEO of ***Sojourners***. He believes that “the common good and the quality of our life together will finally be determined by the personal decisions we all make.” In a recent on-line posting he shares “10 Decisions You Can Make to Change the World.”

1. If you are a father or a mother, make your children the most important priority in your life and build your other commitments around them. If you are not a parent, look for children who could benefit from your investment in their lives.
2. If you are married, be faithful to your spouse. Demonstrate your commitment with both your fidelity and your love. If you are single, measure your relationships by their integrity, not their usefulness.
3. If you are a person of faith, focus not just on what you believe but on how you act on those beliefs. If you love God, ask God how to love your neighbor.
4. Take the place you live seriously. Make the context of your life and work the parish that you take responsibility for.
5. Seek to develop a vocation and not just a career. Discern your gifts as a child of God, not just your talents, and listen for your calling rather than just looking for opportunities. Remember that your personal good always relates to the common good.
6. Make choices by distinguishing between wants and needs. Choose what is enough, rather than what is possible to get. Replace appetites with values, teach your children the same, and model those values for all who are in your life.

7. Look at the business, company, or organization where you work from an ethical perspective. Ask what its vocation is, too. Challenge whatever is dishonest or exploitative and help your place of work do well by doing good.
8. Ask yourself what in the world today most breaks your heart and offends your sense of justice. Decide to help change that and join with others who are committed to transforming that injustice.
9. Get to know who your political representatives are at both the local and national level. Study their policy decisions and examine their moral compass and public leadership. Make your public convictions and commitments known to them and choose to hold them accountable.
10. Since the difference between events and movements is sacrifice, which is also the true meaning of religion and what makes for social change, ask yourself what is important enough to give your life to and for.

Finding the integral relationship between your own personal good and the common good is your best contribution to our future. And it is the best hope we have for a better life together.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Lentz, Jr.', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.  
Senior Pastor

Dear friends,

Blessings,



A colleague sent along this devotional she received. It is beautiful and it is sufficient for a word of inspiration today. May God bless you and your summer. May you experience both a joyful filling and a grace-filled emptying.

Rev. Clover Beal  
Associate Pastor

## **The Good Death**

by Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz

*"When clouds are full, they empty rain on the earth." - Ecclesiastes 11:3*

Roger died on a recent Monday night, and though it sounds strange to say, he died a good death, for yes, if death comes to us all, why can't it sometimes be "good"? Not to say that there has not been grief and the ache of deep missing, the empty rooms and things packed away that will never be shared again. No, not mine to "judge" what such a death means, but only to witness the goodness I have seen: For the past three months since he sat propped in his hospital bed and was told of his cancer for which there was no cure, Roger has been emptying his life in forgiveness, thank you, love and good-bye. Remarkable really, to witness his path, as he summoned family and friends for the conversations he needed, the release of words, deeds, many long since forgotten. Privilege really, to walk in and out of the home of care his family had made - his recliner by the window, the feeder outside and songbirds praising. To witness amidst all the fluttering and duty, a stilling, quieting as well - the sharing of memories, and holding of hands. For some, there will be no time like this. So many other deaths full of other words than "good" - but a wrenching out of life, with no time for kind words and a parting kiss. No, we do not often get to choose - but what if today we did? Chose here, among the living, with so many deaths before us - that in all the filling of today might be an emptying as well of forgiveness, thank you, love and goodbye.

**Prayer:** Amidst all the filling, today, an emptying. Amen.

Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz is a Minister and member of the Leadership Staff at University Congregational United Church of Christ, Seattle, Washington.

## Children Ministries

On June 9 we celebrated all of our wonderful teachers, leaders, mentors, and shepherds who have given their gifts of time and teaching to our children as they learn of our faith. These programs are successful because of their dedication, energy and commitment to our children and youth. Thank you.

### Childcare

During the summer months there will be child care for infants through five year olds. Infants and toddlers will be in our nursery and pre-school rooms if needed. Child care will be available every Sunday from 9:30-11:30.

Thank you to Melinda Dus, Diane Moyer, Jill Roberts and Sarah Tan for helping the nursery in June.

### Summer Pathways

Throughout the summer the children will be participating in workshops that explore six parables.

Jesus knew that people learned best through stories. Jesus was a storyteller: *With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables...*  
(Mark 4: 33-34)

Throughout the summer months children entering first through sixth grade are invited to explore in creative and engaging activities the parables of *Wise and Foolish Builders* (Matthew 7:21-29, Luke 6:46-49), *The Unmerciful Servant* (Matthew 18:21-35), *The Friend in the Night* (Luke 11:5-13), *The Great Banquet* (Luke 14:16-24), *the Workers in the Field* (Matthew 20:1-16), and *The Vineyard and the Farmers* (Mark 12: 1-12, Matthew 21:33-46, Luke 20: 9-19). Just as Jesus spoke in parables, we continue to speak in parables to share his stories and teachings.

On non-Pathways Sundays children in grades 1-6 are encouraged to sit with their families during worship. There are baskets of quiet activities in the sanctuary for children to use; a library cart with many kinds of books will also be available outside the sanctuary.

Thank you to Alisha Trammell, Laurie Logan, Pat & Jim Seeders and Deanne Lentz for leading these workshops this summer.

### **Family Fellowship Friday**

The summer focus for our children is exploring the parables. We would like to broaden this exploration to include all members of our church family. On Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> we have planned **an intergenerational event** to discover, discern, explore and participate in activities around the parable of *Lazarus and the Rich Man*, Luke 16:19-31.

Please join us at 5:30 for a potluck dinner; bring a side dish or dessert to share and your main dish. Charcoal grills will be set up for hamburgers and other grillables. Forest Hill will provide the beverages and dishware. The program part of the evening will begin around 6:30.

Being in fellowship with a faith community is a significant part of growing your own faith. I hope you will join us for this event.

### **Get Connected!**

I invite you to consider becoming involved in any of our Christian education programs. There are many ways to help out: hold a baby for an hour, read a story to 3 and 4 year olds, help choose curriculum, be part of an adult core team for our youth groups or part of the children's team, be a youth leader, offer your home for youth Bible studies, work with computers.....The experience is rewarding and satisfying. Please contact Liz Wollaeger (216-321-2660, or [lizw@fhcpresb.org](mailto:lizw@fhcpresb.org)) for more information.

### **Dates to Know**

**July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18, 10 am Summer Pathways workshops**

Children entering first through sixth grade will meet in the Art Room

**July 26, 5:30-8:30**

**Family Fellowship Friday**

Faithfully,



Liz Wollaeger  
Director of Christian Education

## Music

By the time you read this edition of the Tower, I will be completing my trip to Spain and France where I will have reveled in Basque-country music, art and cuisine. I also will have admired the modernist architecture of many fine buildings in Barcelona, and sat in on two jazz jams. I hope to be rested and ready to plan the music for the 2013-2014 program year!

Our new hymnals will arrive in September, and I plan to celebrate this book throughout the year with informal hymn-sings, more formal hymn festivals, and in-service hymn presentations as we get familiar and comfortable with this new book. You will probably be surprised how many of the songs you already know, as Forest Hill has always been a little ahead of the curve and many of the new songs were introduced at FHC years ago! I'm looking forward to this year, and I hope you are also.

Have you sung in the Summer Choir yet? Please consider joining other singers on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the downstairs choir room. The music is easy to learn (unison or two parts), and children (even babes in arms) and other non-singing family members are most welcome to sit with you. Summer Choir continues through July.

I hope you will consider joining a choir when the fall season begins in September. Singing has been shown to lower blood pressure, boost immune systems, ease muscle tension and bring an overall positive state of mind. It's true, so what are you waiting for? ☺

Best wishes for a safe, restorative summer.

Soli Deo Gloria



Anne Wilson  
Organist/Director of Music  
[annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org)  
216-870-2729

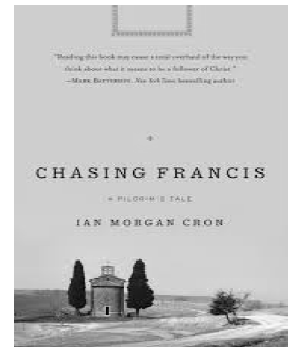
## *Youth Director Update*

As you know by now, Kristen Otte resigned her position as Director of Youth Fellowship as of June 2. The Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation is meeting soon to plan for her replacement. The Sr. High Youth Fellowship will still be heading to Nicaragua in July under the capable leadership of Sharon Shumaker, Mark Chupp, Tim and Leigh Henderson and Kurt Haas.

Dr. John Lentz

### **One Book, One Church**

This summer, FHC will read together the novel ***Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale*** by Ian Morgan Cron.



What happens when the pastor of a megachurch loses his faith? Pastor Chase Falson has lost his faith in God, the Bible, evangelical Christianity, and his super-sized megachurch. When he falls apart, the church elders tell him to take a leave. Join Chase on his life-changing journey to Italy where, with a curious group of Franciscan friars, he struggles to resolve his crisis of faith by retracing the footsteps of Francis of Assisi, a saint whose simple way of loving Jesus changed the history of the world. The author weaves lessons from the life of Saint Francis to explore the life of a saint who 800 years ago breathed new life into disillusioned Christians and a Church on the brink of collapse. ***Chasing Francis*** is a hopeful and moving story with profound implications for those who yearn for a more vital relationship with God and the world. You will discover your own journey through the lessons of St. Francis.

Copies of the book will be for sale after worship at \$10 each. A book discussion opportunity will be set for later in the summer.

Rev. Clover Beal



## Family Promise Host Week

Last year, on a warm summer evening, streams of water flew across Forest Hill Church's courtyard. The sound of children squealing echoed off the walls as they ran and danced with big fluorescent squirt guns in their hands.

Sue Lafferty vividly remembers that night, when Forest Hill Church opened its doors to house local families through Family Promise of Greater Cleveland. She said that night with the squirt guns is one of her fondest memories in the four years she's been volunteering with the organization.

"Later that night," she said, "one of the moms said thank you with tears in her eyes because her children just had a chance to play and have fun, completely forgetting the hardships their family was enduring at the time. To me, that was an example of genuine Forest Hill Church hospitality."

Family Promise of Greater Cleveland (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) is a non-profit organization that provides shelter, meals and social services to homeless families with dependent children, including households headed by couples, single mothers, single fathers or other legal guardians. Family Promise serves up to 28 people at a time, usually eight to 10 families, and it is the only organization in Cleveland that allows families to stay together while they try to find permanent housing.

During the day, families are provided shelter at the Family Promise Resource Center in Tremont. There is a nursery for babies, quiet rooms, showers, laundry, a kitchen, and a resource center used for training programs, housing and employment searches. The organization provides transportation for guest children to and from their home schools, and it also provides families with bus passes for guests seeking jobs, housing or other appointments.

Every night, host churches provide overnight accommodations and meals. More than 80 faith-based organizations on the east and west side participate, and Forest Hill Church has served as a host since 2008.



This summer, from July 7-14, Forest Hill will open its doors for Family Promise families once again. Several area support churches will help but volunteers are still needed! Forest Hill's Family Promise coordinators, Julie Lusic, Anne Smith and Sue Lafferty, plan two-hour volunteer shifts, always with another volunteer and coordinator.

The following jobs always need to be filled each time the church hosts:

- **Set-up volunteers**—Responsible for about one hour after church on the first day of hosting to transform education rooms into bedrooms for guests.
- **Bed movers**—Responsible for meeting the truck at 9:30 a.m. the first Sunday of host week and moving the beds upstairs.
- **Dinner providers and hosts**—Responsible for making part of a planned dinner for guests and eating with them. This job requires being at the church by 5 p.m. and staying until 6:45 p.m.
- **Activity Hosts**—Responsible for being at the church from 6:45-8:45 p.m. Hosts play with the children, talk with the adults and provide support for the families through the evening. This does not require elaborate planning, although it's great if the host brings a craft and/or a simple, fun activity to do with the families, and there is always a coordinator present throughout the evening.
- **Overnight Hosts**—Responsible for sleeping at the church with the families. Hosts sleep in the chapel, need to be at the church at 8:45 p.m. and may leave as soon as the families leave in the morning, usually by 7 a.m.
- **Bed movers**—Responsible for moving the beds downstairs and loading them onto the truck around 9:30 a.m. on the last Sunday of host week.
- **Clean-up volunteers**—Responsible for about one hour of clean up on the last Sunday of host week from approximately 8:30-9:30am.
- **Laundry Volunteers**—Responsible for one load of laundry/a few bags of linens on the final Sunday.
- **Truck driver**—Responsible for picking up the Penske truck in Bedford and driving it, loaded with the beds, to the next congregation on the last Sunday of host week.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Julie Lusic.

Ministry of Justice and Mission

## Earth Care Is on the Rise!

More and more folks of faith are rising to the challenge of concern for the Earth, God's creation, and the ills we are visiting on the planet. Within our own ranks, the Endowment Committee has seen fit to fund certain groups within Forest Hill Church who are doing ad-hoc ministry. Your Earth Care Green Team has been awarded a small grant to help us engage more with our congregation. With such a grant, you'll notice an acquisition of a blue tri-fold table- top display board in Fellowship Hall. This will supplement occasional use of the mounted bulletin board in the entry way into the sanctuary.

With this new Earth Care Blue Board, during the coming weeks and months you'll see important information posted on environmental news, websites, calls for advocacy, and how to contact local, state, and national representatives to make our voices heard on many various environmental matters which concern us all – fracking, the oil-sands pipeline issue, agribusiness, air and water pollution, the de-listing of protection of wolves throughout the United States and decline of other biodiversity, and mountain-top coal mining, to name a few.

*Visit the Earth Care Blue Board in Fellowship Hall frequently to stay in touch and keep informed!* However, this board is not our only communication tool. In order to ratchet up visibility further on our conscious effort to become engaged in Earth Care, we'll be expanding the message on the FHC website, contributing monthly offerings in the Tower, and sending out special email blasts when warranted. And in the fall, look for a special movie night – replete with popcorn – where we'll engage in viewing an environmental-related documentary and ensuing discussion.



Elder Dave Neff, Earth Care Green Team

What can you do this summer to reduce your carbon footprint?

Walk or bicycle when possible

Buy (and use!) a hand-powered lawn mower

Give up bottled water

# SOHoH

(Supporting Opportunity and Hope in Haiti)

A festive summer event to raise funds for medical care, education at an orphanage and residential sanitation in rural Central Haiti.

For reservations or donations call 216-371-9004

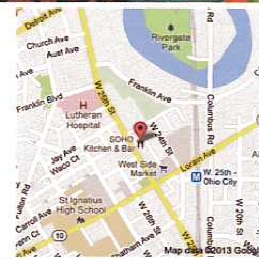
Make checks payable to FHC/Haiti

Mail to FHC/Haiti 3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Heights, 44118

For more information visit [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)  
and search international connection

a special thanks to SOHO Kitchen and Bar  
for their creative and generous support.

1889 W. 25th street  
Cleveland, OH



**JULY 14th 2013 5-8 pm**

Advanced reservations only  
RSVP by July 4th

\$50 per person (\$30 tax deductible)

Includes buffet and 2 drinks

5:00- Enjoy hearty samplings of  
Haitian-inspired cuisine prepared  
by SOHO Kitchen and Bar.

6:30- Informal presentation about  
the FHC Haiti partnership.

7:00- Live Auction (art quilts, blowing glass)



# News of Our Church Family

## Baptisms

**Maisarah Elizabeth Manista** and **Abigail Rose Manista**, daughters of Majida and Andrew Manista and sisters of Hadley, were baptized June 16, 2103. Jim Manista, their grandfather, was the attending Elder.

## Marriage

**Juliann Lafferty** and **John S. Ely III** were married on June 15, 2013 at Forest Hill Church. Dr. John Lentz officiated. Julie is the daughter of Sue and Scott Lafferty.

## New members

**Please welcome these new members who were received on June 16, 2013:**

Ajah Hales

Gale Poor

Marjorie Ravas

Jessica Kelley-Moore

Gretchen Reynolds

Mary Constance Sekerak

## Care Group

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

Members of the Canaan CARE Group are:

Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Deacon leader

Jeanette Nemcek

Mark Chupp & Sharon Shumaker

Vikki Nowak, Todd Webster & family

Lisa Chuppa

John Prentice

Chris & Amy Davis & family

Rob Reynolds

Bob & Joanne Dawson

Margaret & George Sentell

Muriel Dean

Franklin & Naana Soadwa

Beth & Bill Forsythe & family

Chuck & Rosanna Sprague

Allen & Zivile Khoury

Joy Stang

Lisa & Jed Koops & family

Anne Taylor

Laurie & Keith Logan

Debbie & Don Ungemach & family

Ginie Mast

LeAnn West

Laurie & Eric Muller-Girard & family

Peggy Yeager

The Calvary CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during August.

Members of the Calvary CARE Group are:

Carol Gifford, Deacon leader	Paul Jennings
Kevin & Brittani Ball & family	Charlie Kahn
Nancy Burcham	Florence & Ronald Klein
Bruce & Beverly Cameron	Fred & Joann Lafferty
Paul Cary, Sue Yelanjian & family	Patricia Ludwig
Jordan Dail	Jeremy Ryman & Diane Moyer & family
Kay Dunlap	Marissa Sherman
Bill Finn & Rachel Martinez-Finn	Dwight & Margie Stauffer
Jen & Andrew Fu & family	Sampson Tedunjaiye, Victoria Sampson & family
Robyn Hales	Lee & Cathi Thomas
Judy Hammer	Beryl Williams
Chris Henry	Lauren Wyss
David & Anne Hunter	Bob & Ginny Young

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

Dick Bloomquist, Ruth and Arthur Brickel, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, 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**

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

**August:** Roger Heineman, Lead and Head Usher; Robyn Hales, Paula Harvey, Tom Harvey, Jason Hidek, Diane McFiggen, Tom McFiggen, Dick Peterjohn

## **Volunteer Hours in May**

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn and Fran Thomas – worked a total of 76 hours in May. Thank you all!

## *Social Groups*

### **The Group (60s – 70s): Lake County Captains game**

The Group will watch Lake County Captains play the Bowling Green Hotrods (Florida Rays) on Saturday August 10 at 7:00 pm. As an added bonus there are post game fireworks. Please contact Jane and Chuck Ishler to reserve your spot with a payment of \$9 per person, due by Sunday July 28. Tickets will be distributed prior to the game.

**August 10, Lake County Captains, 7 pm**

## **Trustee Report**

Over the past month the church has experienced several unexpected expenses, including damage to our security system and heating system caused by a recent power outage; a substantial increase in sewer district charges due to new fees for impervious surfaces, and failure of a dishwasher. On a positive note, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our members, the bride's room has been remodeled and the garden, Abundance Acres, is up and running. Thank you to all who helped and participated. We appreciate your continued support through the summer months.

Trustee Elder Eric Rich

Several Forest Hill youth are seeking summer work doing babysitting and other odd jobs. If you are interested in hiring one of them, please contact the church office for more information.

<b>9:00 Bible Study (through July 28)</b> <b>9:30 Summer Choir (through July 28)</b> <b>Childcare begins</b> <b>Continental Breakfast</b> <b>10:00 WORSHIP</b> <b>Summer Pathways (July 7 &amp; 21, August 4 &amp; 18)</b> <b>11:15 Coffee Hour</b>		<b><i>Sundays in July and August</i></b>
<b>July 7</b> 10:00 WORSHIP: Communion Commission Nicaragua Mission trip 5:00 Family Promise hosting begins	<b>2 Kings 5: 1-14</b> <b>Psalm 30</b> <b>Galatians 6: 7-16</b> <b>Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20</b>	
<b>July 14</b> 5:00 Haiti Mission trip benefit (SOHoH) at SOHO Kitchen and Bar 5:40 Labre Project	<b>Amos 7: 7-17</b> <b>Psalm 82</b> <b>Colossians 1: 1-14</b> <b>Luke 10: 25-37</b>	
<b>July 21</b> 12:15 Blood Pressure check 7:00 Ice Cream Social for Stockholders (Nicaragua Mission Trip)	<b>Amos 8: 1-12</b> <b>Psalm 52</b> <b>Colossians 1: 15-28</b> <b>Luke 10: 38-42</b>	
<b>July 28</b> 11:00 Positive Parenting class 5:40 Labre Project 7:00 Concert: Sonidos Dulces	<b>Hosea 1: 2-10</b> <b>Psalm 85</b> <b>Colossians 2: 6-15</b> <b>Luke 11: 1-13</b>	
<b>August 4</b> 10:00 WORSHIP: Communion <b>Hosea 11: 1-11; Psalm 107: 1-9, 43; Colossians 3: 1-11; Luke 12: 13-21</b>		
<b>August 11</b> 5:40 Labre Project <b>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16; Luke 12: 32-40</b>		
<b>August 18</b> 12:15 Blood Pressure check <b>Isaiah 5: 1-7; Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2; Luke 12: 49-56</b>		
<b>August 25</b> 11:00 Positive Parenting class 5:40 Labre Project	<b>Jeremiah 1: 4-10</b> <b>Psalm 71: 1-6</b> <b>Hebrews 12: 18-29</b> <b>Luke 14: 1, 7-14</b>	

This TOWER is the July-August summer issue. The next edition will have news for the fall. The deadline for submissions is August 16 at 7 am.	<b><i>Announcements!</i></b> <b><i>Announcements!</i></b>
<b>Important summer dates</b> July 7-14: Family Promise Host Week July 14: SOHoH Haiti Benefit July 26: Family Fellowship Friday Aug. 17: Outside worship and picnic Sept. 8: Regular schedule resumes Sept. 15: Fall Festival	<b><i>TOWER</i></b> deadlines: <b>7 am</b> on August 16 September 13 October 18

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

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

**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

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

**The summer schedule for the office and building is as follows:**

- The office is open 8:30 - 5, Monday - Thursday
- The building is accessible until 9 pm, Monday - Thursday. If the doorbell does not get answered, please call the custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257
- Friday: The office is open until 3 pm; the building is accessible until 8 pm
- Saturday: The building is accessible 8 am - 1 pm
- Sunday: The building is accessible 7 am - 5 pm
- The office will be closed July 4-5.

*Check out the website*

[www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

*Come and see!*



## **What is "Mi Pueblo"? aka Culture Camp at Forest Hill Church**

Mi Pueblo is a weeklong Latin American Culture Camp, providing fun and cultural awareness for children adopted from Latin America and their siblings. The Camp, sponsored by the parent support group, Concern for Children, is held every summer during the third week in June in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Mi Pueblo, which means "My People," "My Village," "My Nation" in Spanish, is one of only a handful of similar camps for children of Latin American heritage. While most campers are from throughout Northeast Ohio, some have come from Columbus, Cincinnati and Athens, Ohio and the states of California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The camp provides children, who range in age from 18 months to 14 years, with a positive and fun environment in which they may learn about the cultural heritage of their birth countries, and can gain pride in both their heritage and themselves. Classes in dance, music games, crafts, culture and Spanish language all focus upon the traditions of Latin American Countries.

In addition, campers are treated to special guests throughout the week. Past years have included presentations on the animals from Central and South America, Latin America art and citizens from a number of Latin American countries who talk about growing up in their native lands. Latin American bands and Dance Theater troupes have also entertain campers. Culminating the week's activities is a Fiesta celebration on Friday nights. Campers, dressed in traditional costumes, present dances and songs they learned during the week. Each year Camp activities focus upon a theme. Recent themes have included "Latin America Through the 20th Century" and "The Nature of Latin America."

The classes at the Camp are taught by members of the Cleveland Latino community, giving campers positive role models who share their heritage.

All other Camp operations are covered by more than 60 volunteers including parents of the campers anxious to learn about the culture of their children's birth countries. Over twenty teen and young adult volunteers, many of who were adopted from Latin America also give support. The campers develop a special bond with the teens, seeing young adults who are "just like me." A special evening for the teen volunteers is held during the week of camp.

The sponsor of Mi Pueblo is Concern for Children, a nonprofit parents' support group in Northeast Ohio that assists families to adopt from a number of countries in Latin America, and provides continuing support and education for families after the children arrive in the U.S.A.

From <http://www.concernforchildren.org/camp.php>

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