

Dear Friends,

From the Pastor

Since September, I have begun each weekly staff meeting with a reading from Richard Rohr's new book of daily meditations: **Yes, And...** (Cincinnati: Franciscan Media, 2013). Rohr is a Franciscan priest who lives in New Mexico. I have heard him speak on a number of occasions and read many of his books. I like Rohr's take on religion and faith. He is down to earth and speaks to the heart as well as the head. In his offering entitled: "God is Not Santa Claus," he writes:

If we want to go to the mature, mystical and non-dual levels of spirituality, we must first deal with the often faulty, inadequate, and even toxic images of God that most people are dealing with before they have authentic God experience. Both God as Trinity and Jesus... reveal a God quite different – and much better – than the Santa Claus god who is “making a list and checking it twice...” or an “I will torture you if you do not love me” god. We must be honest and admit that this is the god that most people are still praying to. [But the] Trinity reveals that God is the Divine Flow under, around, and through all things – much more a verb than a noun, relationship itself rather than an old man sitting on a throne. Jesus tells us that God is like a loving parent who runs toward us while we are “still a long way off” (Luke 15:20), then clasps and kisses us. Until this is personally experienced, most of Christianity does not work. This theme moves us quickly into practice-based religion (orthopraxy) over mere word and ideas (orthodoxy).

I believe that the mission of Forest Hill Church is to help you have an experience of God's love and acceptance which moves you quickly into a practice-based religion rather than a religion that is mere word and doctrine.

May the month of November be filled with blessings for you. Happy Thanksgiving (early and always)!



Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.
Pastor, Head of Staff

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

November 2013

John C. Lentz, Pastor

Clover Reuter Beal, Associate Pastor

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

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*The
Clover
Patch*

Dear friends,

The eighth Faith Leader small group just returned from its retreat in Chautauqua, NY. Four weeks down and 24 more to go! 11 adults have embarked on the eighth year of the Faith Leader small group experience. Participating in the Faith Leader program for 2013-14 are **Todd Webster and Jeannine Gury, co-facilitators; Lia Clement, Jewrett Bailey, Morag Keefe, John Dugard, Erik Peterson, Robin Mervine, Patricia Bowman Jenkins, Rob Reynolds.** I have the privilege of participating as a presence, and blessed to give witness to the transformative power of the journey for each member.

Over our retreat weekend, we explored the theological and biblical concepts of spiritual gifts. Presbyterians don't always talk about the spiritual gifts identified in the New Testament letters. Gifts are the God-given, Spirit-endowed gifts and skills an individual outwardly expresses in his or her daily life. For example, do you ever get so caught up in something you love to the extent that you lose track of time? Do you get into a "zone" and forget the world around you? What do you love to do that comes naturally for you – that you are good at – and that others recognize in you? Your answers most likely point to your spiritual gifts.

Trusting that God has gifted each of us differently, we can be assured that God wants us to love what we do. Here's the catch though – God wants us to use our gifts for the building up of the body of Christ, as well as serving the world. But God doesn't want our service to be something we dread. The key to our understanding of our spiritual giftedness is that if we are using them, we will be *energized* by our activity, not enervated.

Our Nominating Committee, led by Elder Ron Polderman, has worked diligently the past nine months identifying, discerning, and inviting individuals into elected positions of leadership that suit their passions and gifts. When a person is well-matched to an office that expresses his or her God-given passion, he or she is more likely to show up to meetings, and less likely to burn out! How's that for a novel idea?

If you are interested in exploring what are your spiritual gifts, notify the Ministry of Leadership and Vocation (chaired by Elder Laurie Muller-Girard) or me. We are eager to help you uncover and claim the essential part you play in building up the Body of Christ, as the Apostle Paul writes in 1Corinthians:12. Every member works for the benefit of the whole.

Blessings be,



Rev. Clover Beal
Associate Pastor
Director of Lay Leadership

All-Church Bible Study continues through November

GENESIS

Small groups continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Even if you are not registered for a group, please feel free to join one on any Sunday! All groups welcome newcomers and visitors. The study will finish with a large group gathering November 24 in South Hall at 9:30 am. On January 5, we will begin again as a large group with Part II of the Genesis Kerygma study. Our group studies will end February 16, 2014.

Rev. Clover Beal

Special Bible Study Offering: Isaiah

A Bible study based on the first 39 chapters of the book of Isaiah will be offered after worship on the four Sundays of Advent (December 1 – 22). This four-part series is a repeat of the study facilitated by Kermit Lind this past summer. The curriculum will consist of texts selected to illuminate Isaiah's vision of God's interaction with people – engagements ranging from indictment to destruction to purification and restoration. This is a vision of Advent, God with us. Participants will receive a study guide covering all four sessions.

Advance registration is encouraged.

Please contact Kermit Lind.

Dates: December 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 12:30 – 2:00 following worship

Adults of all ages are welcome!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Thank you to all the teachers, shepherds, leaders, and helpers who shared their faith and time in our church school programs. The children continued to be involved in their classrooms as they explored our faith in October with lessons and stories of Creation, Noah and Moses, and King David.

In the nursery, thank you to Virginia Weiss, Jill Roberts and youth helpers Maggie & Allie Peterjohn.

In Children in Worship class, thank you to Katie & Matt Russo and Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck.

In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Jane Duncan, Danielle Cosgrove, Pat & Jim Seeders, Diane Moyer & Jeremy Ryman, Christina Hidek, Jewrett Bailey and Peter Williams.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children in Worship

Pre-School and Kindergarten

Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck will be teaching this class in November. 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 Jacob and Moses; they will also explore how the church tells time.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The next rotation theme centers on *Ezekiel*. Throughout the book of Ezekiel we hear the phrase, "Thus says the Lord." Ezekiel's call was to tell the people in exile that their own actions had caused their downfall and that God had not and would not abandon them. The children will explore this story through games, computer and creative storytelling in learning the twelve tribes of Israel.

CONFIRMATION

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

These are some of the questions the Confirmation class will be exploring during a 20-week study of Confirmation. The class will participate in Sunday morning classes, bible study, 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. The Confirmands and their Covenant Partners will begin this journey on November 10. Confirmation Sunday is March 30, 2014. Please keep those involved—Confirmands, Covenant Partners, families and teachers—in your prayers as we take this journey called *Confirmation*.

Dates to Know

November 3 KISS – Kids in Sunday Service

Children will attend worship to celebrate the Lord's Supper with their families.

November 10 – Confirmation begins

The class will meet in the MOB Room from 9:30-10:30 each Sunday

November 10 – Pathways Gathering Time

Children will meet in the chapel at 11:00, then be dismissed to workshops with their shepherds.

November 17 & 24 – Pathways

Children will begin in Worship, then be dismissed to attend their workshops.

December 6 – Advent Workshop

This year's Advent Workshop will be held in Fellowship Hall from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Liz

Liz Wollaeger
Director of Children's Ministries



ADVENT WORKSHOP

***Celebrate the season of Advent
at Forest Hill Church's annual Advent Workshop
Friday evening, December 6, 5:30-8:30
in Fellowship Hall***

Pizza will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share

***Come create family Advent crafts and Christmas
decorations to celebrate the season.***

All are welcome!

Music

November starts with the end of Daylight Saving Time on the first Sunday, November 3, so I hope the congregation and choirs will enjoy the extra hour of sleep!



Our new hymnals have arrived and were dedicated on October 20 during worship. We will be using the books for the first time on Sunday, November 3 during a special AWE service: ***How Can We Keep From Singing!*** There will be lots of singing in this service, beginning with gathering songs in place of the prelude. The Chancel Choir will stand in the aisles as we sing these opening songs, and guest instrumentalists will enhance the experience.

I'm grateful for several recent gifts to the Friends of Music Fund. The FOM fund is used to enhance our worship with guest instrumentalists, dancers, and artists. All donations are heartily and thankfully accepted! Thank you for considering a gift.

The Descant Choir children will be collecting pennies to donate to the FHC food cupboard, Abundance Pantry as they sing the charming *Scottish Penny Song* on November 17. Kindly start saving up your pennies in preparation for throwing them gleefully into the children's baskets.

Soli Deo Gloria

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

Anne Wilson
Organist/Director of Music
anew@fhcpresb.org
216-870-2729

Exploring Membership Classes: November 9 and 10

If you've been considering church membership, here's your chance. Exploring Membership classes will meet Saturday, November 9, 9:00 am-12:00 pm and Sunday, November 10, 9:00-10:30 am.

If you're considering membership, it's important to attend both classes. They are designed not only to share information about what we believe at Forest Hill and how we operate as Presbyterians, but to build community and get to know others in the life of the church.

If you choose to join, you will be received by the Session and introduced to the congregation during worship on November 24. Please contact Rev. John Lentz, Rev. Clover Beal, or the church office (216-321-2660) for information about the upcoming session.

From the PC(USA) 2007-2009 Book of Order G-5.0100 The Meaning of Membership

- a.** The incarnation of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives to the church not only its mission but also its understanding of membership. One becomes an active member of the church through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and acceptance of his Lordship in all of life. Baptism and a public profession of faith in Jesus as Lord are the visible signs of entrance into the active membership of the church.
- b.** Persons may enter into active church membership in the following ways: by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, or transfer of certificate from some other church.
- c.** When persons baptized as infants reach an age when they are ready to make public their profession of faith and accept their responsibility in the life of the church, the session should invite, encourage, and help them prepare for their responsibility as active church members.

Recycling Event at Forest Hill Church ***start collecting now!***

On the weekend of November 16-17, special recycling containers will be placed in our parking lot and manned by Enviro-Recycle, a local strictly-green recycle company. And the best part is that *it is a fundraiser for our church! Twenty-five percent (25%) of the collected value of the recycled items will be paid back to us within a couple of weeks of the collection.* Proceeds will be used in best fashion as determined by the Session.

Only electronic and metal articles can be recycled! No paper, cardboard, glass, trash, garbage, or liquids of ANY KIND is to be deposited into these containers. CRT TVs will not be accepted either.

So bring your metal cans, tools, pots and pans, small appliances, anything with an electrical cord, old computers, cell phones and printers – including spent ink cartridges – to the party anytime that weekend.

In the few weeks preceding the collection, you'll see posters, flyers and emails with more information about what can be recycled.

Recycling is one of the key tenants of 'going green' and this is a good win-win for the environment and for our church community.

Dave Neff and your FHC Earth Care Green Team



News of Our Church Family

Births

Mykelti Ryan Ball, daughter of Brittany and Kevin Ball and sister of Keara and Caiden, was born September 20, 2013. Mary Ball is Mykelti's grandmother.

Baptisms

Shannon Michele Garret Headen was baptized on October 20, 2013.

Lotus Naki Headen, daughter of Shannon and LeDon Headen, was also baptized October 20. Doris Allen was the attending Elder for both Shannon and Lotus.

Marriages

Matthew Anthony Console and Arica Christine Beranek were married at FHC on October 12, 2013. Dr. Lentz officiated. Matt is the son of Patty and Ron Console.

In Memoriam We Remember

Peggy Skelly, who died September 25, 2013.

Lois Wilson Young, who died September 27, 2013.

CARE in November

The CARE Group for the month of November is the whole church. Therefore anyone may volunteer to meet the needs of the congregation on a Sunday morning during this month. Specifically, volunteers are needed to greet prior to worship, serve as continental breakfast or coffee hour hosts, assist with the greeting card ministry, and deliver flowers. It doesn't take much time and makes a big difference in the life of the church! If you are interested in giving of your time and talents, please contact Ahren Stock (astoc@hawken.edu or 216.970.8925).

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Dick Bloomquist, Bill Currie, 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:

Minnie Brown, Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Graham Kiple (nephew of Kathryn Himmelsteib), Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey, Barbara Harvey, (Tom and Paula Harvey's family), Patricia Peterson (Kara Schellenberg's mother), David Sacha (Carol Gifford's father), Charles Sawyer (Ann Williams' brother), Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother).

Ushers

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

Volunteer Hours

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn and Fran Thomas – worked a total of 56.5 hours in September. Thank you all!

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (60s – 70s): A Play and a Party

We will attend the ***Hello, Dolly*** performance at Heights High on November 1. Enjoy the wonderful musical talent of FHC's Sarah Lentz, Jessica Klein, Anna Brock, Cooper Andrews and choir member Michael Judge. Contact Pat or Jim Seeders (216 321-1429) for more information.

Save Friday, December 13 for our annual Christmas party. We will enjoy the hospitality of Joe and Betsy Andrews, and bring gifts for a special family from Boulevard school. Details will be sent next month.

BYOB at 6:00 pm and potluck dinner at 7:00 pm.

Andrews home: 2740 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Hts

For reservations and/or questions, please contact Cathy Ghiandoni (216 691-1905 or ghiandoni.c@gmail.com).

Friday, December 13, home of Joe and Betsy Andrews, 6 pm

Hilltoppers (retired): ***Hello, Dolly!***

Hilltoppers will attend ***Hello, Dolly!*** at Heights High on Sunday, November 3 at 4 pm. Please contact Lucy Conde (216-382-5177) or Muriel Dean (216-371-1018) for information.

Sunday, November 3, Heights High School, 4:00 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church): **Holiday Angel Preparations**

On Tuesday, November 19 at 11 am we will prepare tree ornaments for the Holiday Angel gift giving to Boulevard School children. We will cut, paste, punch and tie so our Christmas tree will be filled with gift-giving ideas for children at Boulevard. We provide the materials – we need helpers to make the ornaments. BYO lunch, or enjoy lunch made by Don Ghiandoni, our honorary chef. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Reservations are needed by Nov 17 for a lunch (\$5) – choice of roast beef, turkey or vegetarian sandwiches, with chips and brownies. Please contact Cathy Ghiandoni (ghiandoni.c@gmail.com or 216-691-1905).

Tuesday, November 19, FHC Fellowship Hall, 11 am

Hello again from the Stewardship ministry !

I am the true vine... Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:1, 4-5.

We hope you heard John's "Bearing Fruit" sermon on October 13, and also the brief comments offered over the past few weeks in our "Stewardship Minutes" by Cindy Fink and Kemp Jaycox, Megan Muller-Girard, Rosanna Sprague, Sylvia Herd and Lisa and Jed Koops — each sharing their thoughts about stewardship and about how our pledge dollars are used to advance the work of the household of God. We hope these events will continue to prompt our individual and collective reflections on the dynamic relationship between resources, the church's needs and priorities, and the needs of the world around us (both locally and beyond). It is indeed true that a key aspect of discipleship is being stewards – of our planet and especially of what God has entrusted to each of us. We especially appreciate John's candid sharing of his and Deanne's "stewardship faith journey". We hope you have been challenged (as we have) by John's encouragement to think of tithing and pledging as faithful responses to stewarding the abundance we have been given – as well as necessary for us as the FHC faith community to continue to sustain and grow our ministries. We invite you to consider prayerfully the matter of your pledge and to send in your pledge card as soon as possible.

We would like to invite you all to a *Cornucopia Celebration* of Bearing Much Fruit immediately following morning worship in early November. We hope to see you there!

Yours faithfully,

The Ministry of Stewardship

Dale Dannefer, Dele Solaru, Scott Peters,
Steve Sedam, Cindy Fink, Clayton Minder

Prayer of Stewardship

O Lord, forgive our fears
that so stifle our stewardship.
Forgive our giving in and our giving up
instead of giving ourselves
to Christ's mission of love.
Remind us that our hope
is in standing up and risking,
in taking our stewardship seriously.
Help us to remember, O Lord, that
the stewardship question is not really,
How much will we give?
The stewardship question is,
How will we spend what we have been given?
We pray it will be faithfully
and cheerfully.

Ann Weems
Searching for Shalom

Tai Chi

Tai Chi is currently being offered in the FHC chapel Mondays through Thursdays from 8:45 – 9:45 am.

According to legend, Tai Chi Ch'uan was developed sometime during the Sung Dynasty (960-1279 AD). The movements, based on Kung Fu martial arts forms (shadow-boxing in slow motion) are performed slowly, in a relaxed and comfortable way. Tai Chi is meditation in motion with the use of breathing techniques to relax and refresh the mind. It is done without strain and can be performed by anyone regardless of age. Scientific research shows Tai Chi stimulates the central nervous system, relieves stress and gently tones muscles. It is said that when practiced regularly, twice a day, over time, it will provide the pliability of a child, the health of a lumberjack, and the peace of mind of a sage.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lynda in the church office.

John Rodney (participant)

Announcements! Announcements!

“Bearing Much Fruit”
Stewardship 2014
is underway.

Contact the church office if you need
a pledge card
Or pick one up in the foyer
brochure racks



*Watch for a Cornucopia
Celebration Luncheon in
November*

The church office will be closed on
November 28-29 for Thanksgiving.

TOWER deadlines:
7 am
on
November 15
December 13
January 17, 2014

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is
www.fhcpresb.org

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

Caitlin Michelle Desjardins (Youth), caitlind@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

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257