

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

December 2014

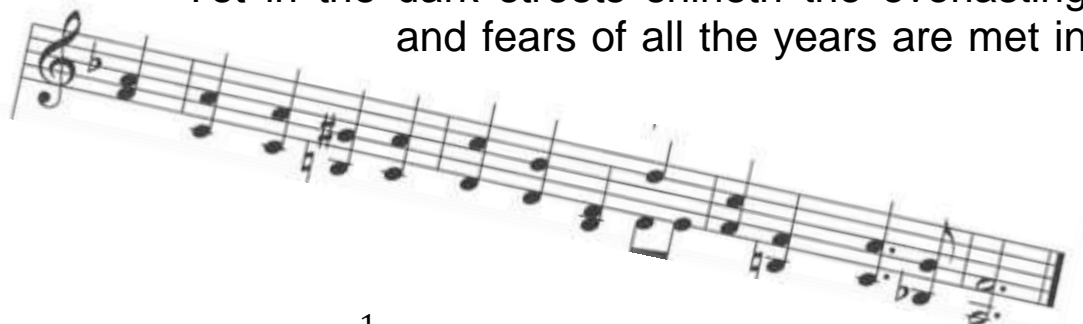
Dear Friends,

We move into Advent, the first season of the Christian year, and prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It is a busy time. It is a joyful time. It is a stressful time. For some it can be a depressing time. It is also a season of songs, hymns and carols.



I love the songs of Advent: "Prepare the Way, O Zion," "People, Look East," "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night," and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." There is anticipation and expectation in these lyrics. There is hope that no matter how dark the sky is, no matter how cold the wind is, no matter how dreary our world is – something is coming, something of God is breaking in; there is hope, there is joy, there is peace on the way.

Of course the hymns of Christmas are sublime: the mystical "Of the Father's Love Begotten," the magical "Angels We Have Heard on High," the sweet "Away in a Manger." "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" reminds me of my favorite Christmas show of all times: "A Charlie Brown's Christmas." "Silent Night, Holy Night!" conjures the hush of the birth night and always calls to mind the last moments of our glorious Christmas Eve service as the lights dim and the cross alone is illumined. And although it is not my favorite Christmas hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" has one of my favorite phrases: "Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."



We come again to this profound turning of the seasons when we remember the coming of God into a world beset with hopes and fears. This year we have hopes and fears about Ebola, gun violence, ISIS, global warming, partisanship, immigration, and all the issues that confront us. This year we have hopes and fears about our own lives and the lives of those we love. As Christians we believe that right into this intersection of personal and community hopes and fears God comes, taking on human flesh....

This Advent and Christmas season, pay attention to the music. Pick up a hymnal and use it as a devotional. What memories do these songs bring to mind? What words and phrases catch your attention? Ask yourself “why these words?” Did you need to hear those particular words at the crossroads of your day? Turn off the television and listen to Handel’s Messiah, or put in your favorite CD of Christian music.

If you have a favorite Advent or Christmas hymn, let me know. I suspect we can sing it sometime in the next month!

Be of good cheer. God bless you!

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.
Sr. Pastor

Announcements! Announcements!

<p>The office will be closed on November 27-28 December 25-26 January 1-2</p>	<p>Take a look at the kitchen next time you’re in the building!</p>
<p>January 2015 dates Jan. 4 Classes and Choirs resume Jan. 25 Lunch and Annual Meeting Feb. 1 Installation and Ordination of Officers</p> <p><i>announcements continue on p 13</i></p>	<p><i>TOWER</i> deadlines: 7 am on December 12 January 16 February 13</p>

Dear friends,

As Christmas approaches and holiday shopping commences, I find myself making a commitment yet again not to give into the pressure of consumerism--buying stuff for buying's sake. I will attempt to give gifts that are more meaningful, and that give back to the world in some way. I might buy a flock of chickens from/for Heifer International in honor of a loved one. I will try to shop at 10,000 Villages when they come to FHC on December 7th. (PLEASE support them!) I will commit to shopping locally. Simplifying the Advent and Christmas season is an annual challenge. This year, I hope to do better than last. I want to share with you the "Christmas Pledge" we can all make as we enter into this Advent season once again. Clip it out and hang it on the fridge!

Clover

May beauty fill your season; may you have the courage to keep simplicity at the center of Christmas.

Rev. Clover Reuter Beal
Associate Pastor
Director of Lay Leadership

THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
5. To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

from *Unplug the Christmas Machine*

Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli

(I highly recommend this book and ***Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case for a More Joyful Christmas***, by Bill McKibben)

**Letter from
Keon Abner**

Dear Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Session, and Church Family:

It is with a saddened but grateful heart that I write this letter to you all in order to submit my resignation as head of the amazing youth ministry of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian. During my time serving as Director of Youth Ministries here at FHC, I have come to know and love each and every child, teenager and adult at the church. The wonderful people of FHC have become my family and the church is home to me; therefore I am extremely sad to leave as I complete school and work in a smaller capacity of youth and music ministry.

Through a significant amount of prayer and thought, my family and I feel that it would be in my best interest to pursue a ministry opportunity that would better utilize my gifts in worship arts and allow me to move away from home to grow in my faith and skills as a Christian leader. I have accepted the call of Pastor of Student Ministries at Fellowship Church in Dallas, Texas, where I will serve in a relational ministry position of fieldwork and evangelism ministry.

I am exceedingly thankful to have had the honor and privilege to serve the family of God at FHC for these past 4 months. The fact that the parents of our youth have allowed me into their lives and homes is something that is humbling to me and something for which I will always be grateful. Many of you have said that I have had an impact on your children, but your children have had a greater impact on me.

The people make up a church and all of the people at FHC are amazing souls who love God and strive to serve God better every day. It has been an amazing life experience to serve with God's angels and two of the most gifted and loving pastors I have ever met. At such a young age God has given me the esteemed privilege to work alongside associates, teachers and staff of FHC. God has worked in my life during these last 4 months and I believe I have grown and will continue to grow as I follow where God leads me all the days of my life.

With gratitude and a cheerful heart I am, sincerely yours,

Keon L. Abner

Emailed to FHC members and friends on 11/8/2014

Children's Ministry

November flew by and the children have been wandering in the wilderness learning more about the journey Moses and the Israelites took in the desert. Our younger children have been exploring stories about Moses as well. A big thank you goes out to all who have so willingly given their time and talents during November to help make our Children's Ministry programs a huge success.

- In our nursery, thank you to Jenny Himmelman, Marcie Denton, Jim & Pat Seeders, Chris Longenecker, Allison Webel, Alisha and Lillie Trammell and Zoe Hartz.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Matt and Katie Russo, Sandy Ladebue, and Danielle Cosgrove.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Marcie Denton, Laurie Logan, Vikki Nowak, Jennifer Blakeney, Deanne Lentz, Alisha Trammell, Joanne Shaner, Matt and Sarah Winters, and Cathy Ghiandoni.

Children's Christian Education

Children in Worship

Pre-School and Kindergarten (ages 3-5)

During December the Children in Worship class will explore and participate in activities about Advent. It will be an exciting time as the children prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. Be sure to encourage your children to share what they are learning about Christ's birth.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

During December the children will participate in a two-part workshop entitled ***Why Do We Call It Christmas?*** from the Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer. Buck Denver and his friends will be exploring the history and traditions of Christmas. The children will be discovering answers to the big questions of Christmas such as

- Why do we call it Christmas?
- What do Christmas trees have to do with Jesus?
- Who is Emmanuel?

Through video, crafts, games, and a service project the children will explore the big question of ***Why Do We Call It Christmas?*** Visit www.whatsinthebible.com to learn more about Phil Visher's series entitled ***What's in the Bible?*** It is designed to teach kids (and parents) the story of the Bible. We all know the stories about Moses, David, and Jesus, but the ***What's in the Bible?*** DVD series will show how they all fit together to tell one big redemptive story.

Dates to Know

December 7 Gathering Time – Why Do We Call It Christmas?

Children in Grades 1-5 will gather in Bodwell Hall at 11:00 to participate in a two-part workshop series.

December 14 Gathering Time – Why Do We Call It Christmas?

Children in Grades 1-5 will gather in Bodwell Hall at 11:00 to participate in the second of this two-part series.

December 14 Cherub Choir (Pre-School and Kindergarten)

Cherub choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary at 10:30 and will be singing during the 11:00 worship.

December 21 Festival of Lessons and Carols

Children in Grades 1-5 will remain in worship to participate in the Festival of Lessons and Carols service.

December 28 No Classes

Blessings,

Dacia Prins
Director of Children's Ministries

Why DO we call it
Christmas?



Music Notes



The season of **Advent**, the time during which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child, begins on November 30. Due to the commercial hubbub of this time in the secular world, we may sometimes wish to skip Advent all together and join our favorite radio programs by singing Christmas carols early in December. But if one honors faithfully the more meditative and preparation-minded spirit of the four Advent weeks, one may find that the actual Christmas holidays (all *twelve* days!) are all the more meaningful. As the pastors choose the hymns and carols during Advent, watch the progression as we gradually move, with anticipation, toward the celebration of the birth of Christ. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel!*

I give thanks to our resident trumpeters, Scott Lafferty and Ahren Stock, who will add a festive touch to our Advent and Christmas services.

Our **Festival of Lessons and Carols** will take place this year on Sunday, December 21, during 11:00 am worship. The Chancel, Sine Nomine and Descant Choirs are all rehearsing for this beautiful and celebrative service. Consider inviting your non-Forest Hill friends to join you this day.

On December 24, **Christmas Eve**, there will be a 5:00 pm Family Service (with the Descant Choir and young instrumentalists) and the 11:00 pm Candlelight Service (with the Chancel and Sine Nomine Choirs). A fifteen-minute musical prelude will precede the 11:00 pm service.

We end the month with worship in Fellowship Hall on the December 28. This will be an informal service, and our home-grown guitarists and instrumentalists will provide musical leadership as I will take a week of vacation then.

I wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Soli Deo Gloria!

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

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.

James 5:13-15

Petitions for the People

My name is Rob Reynolds and I recently completed the FHC Faith Leader program. Through the program, I successfully identified my spiritual gifts, one of which was Intercessory Prayer. Kind of a confusing phrase at first, but it essentially means “intentionally praying for others.” I realized praying for others was something I already practiced and didn’t know that it was a gift.

Then we had a Faith Leader exercise that really hit home. My Faith Leader colleagues and I took turns praying together but silently for each other in the Chapel while gently laying on hands. When I chose to take my turn in the “Prayer Chair,” I was a bit apprehensive, but the experience was beautiful. The energy conveyed from the laying on of hands was very evident. While my Faith Leader friends silently prayed for me, I heard distant thunder, felt the warmth of their hands on me, and the tears flowed. The Holy Spirit was definitely with us all that evening.

I awoke the next morning and my first thoughts before my feet hit the floor were about the Intercessory Prayer experience in the Chapel the night before. I knew others must have the same opportunity to experience this closeness with God and the Holy Spirit.

The Intercessory Prayer Team we’ve assembled (Jewrett Bailey, Pat Jenkins, Lia Clement, Laurie Muller Girard and myself) wants to extend to others the experience of communal intercessory prayer. All individuals are invited to bring their personal prayer requests to be lifted up to God in community in the chapel after worship on communion Sundays. By praying in community, we will represent the Body of Christ, connecting each other more closely to God, ourselves, and the Forest Hill Church community.

Join us and have your personal petitions lifted up to the Lord. Petitions for the People will be offered in the Chapel on Sundays when Communion is celebrated, immediately after worship. The first Petitions for the People will be November 30 at 12:15 pm.

I am humbly grateful for the Spirit's call to bring this offering to the community of faith.

Rob Reynolds
(For more information, please contact Rob at rdrtaylor@gmail.com)

From the Web

Do you have a business website that you'd like to list on our church's web page? A list of members' sites with a brief description of their business can be found at Links We Like (<http://www.fhcpresb.org/about-us/links-we-like/>). Email your link to our webmaster today!

Peg Weissbrod, webmaster
pegweissbrod@gmail.com

Once again we will decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to order one (or more) to honor or memorialize someone, please contact the church office by December 14.



Poinsettias are \$8 each and may be taken home after the 11 pm Christmas Eve service, or donated to be taken to shut-ins.

Support Fair Trade at Holiday Bazaar

Come one, come all to the Fair Trade Bazaar hosted by Forest Hill Church on **Sunday, Dec. 7 from 9 am - 2 p.m.** This annual tradition, originally started as a venue for Ten Thousand Villages—a nonprofit fair trade organization that sells global, handmade products created by artisans in need of a fair wage—will expand to include local cottage industries.

The Bazaar is a great place to find unique Christmas gifts and support artisans at the same time. Products this year include fair trade olive oil, handcrafted jewelry, scarves, Christmas ornaments, and beauty products.

“This event is important to me because I believe in the fair trade movement that provides an international market for craftspeople from around the world to sell their wares and make a fair wage doing so,” said Bazaar organizer Jennifer Blakeney. “And the products are so amazing, I feel I give twice when I purchase fair trade: to the friend I’m buying for, as well as the community from which it comes.”

Over the past years, the Bazaar has grown because Forest Hill members share these sentiments and have chosen to support fair trade by making generous purchases. This year, the community beyond the church is enthusiastically invited to participate.

Volunteers are still needed to help sell products and make the expanded Bazaar possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jennifer Blakeney (bmlspirit@yahoo.com).

Lane Baldwin
Ministry of Justice and Mission

Advent Adult Education Series
Sundays, November 30, December 7, 14, 21 at 9:30 am

MYSTICS, MARTYRS AND SAINTS:
Learning from extraordinary lives

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945): Prophet, Pastor and Martyr

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian famous for his stand against Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. His beliefs and convictions ultimately cost him his life in a Nazi concentration camp. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of the most famous theologians and martyrs of the 20th century.

Gerri Beal, M.Th., carries a familiar name in the FHC community. Ms. Beal finished her Masters in Theology degree from Whitworth University in 2014. She has always had a passion for the life, writings and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Her Masters thesis was titled, "Bonhoeffer and the Finkewalde Seminary: A Hope for the Church of Christ." Gerri lives in Hood River, Oregon and comes to Cleveland at least two times a year to see her children and grandchildren. Her son, Tim, writes books and teaches, and did not fall far from the apple tree when it comes to his scholarly capabilities and interests.

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Saints Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) and Clare of Assisi (1194-1253): Saints and Revolutionaries

St. Francis of Assisi founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis for men and women not able to live the lives of itinerant preachers. Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in history. His influence on the church (and the non-churched) is still profound to this day.

St. Clare of Assisi is an Italian saint and one of the first followers of Saint Francis of Assisi. She founded the Order of Poor Ladies, a monastic religious order for women in the Franciscan tradition, and wrote their Rule of Life—the first monastic rule known to have been written by a woman. Following her death, the order she founded was renamed in her honor as the Order of Saint Clare, commonly referred to today as the Poor Clares.

Natalie Kertes Weaver, Ph.D., is Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Ursuline College and director of the Humanities program. Her areas of interest and expertise include feminist theology, theology of suffering and death, theology of the family, and religion and violence. We are delighted to have her back as our guest lecturer.

DECEMBER 14, 2014

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556): Saint and Reformer

Ignatius Loyola was a brash and gravely wounded young veteran who didn't seek God, but God found him anyway. The observable process of his own conversion became the basis for Ignatius' written magnum opus, ***The Spiritual Exercises***. This book served as a central text for the Society of Jesus (a.k.a. the "Jesuit Order") that Ignatius founded with others in 1534. After his death, the work done by Ignatius Loyola was seen as an important counter to Martin Luther and John Calvin. But if Jesuits were one of the major spearheads of the Counter-Reformation, was that ever Ignatius' intention? Learn how Ignatius Loyola's Jesuits transformed the Roman Catholic Church and what that legacy still means ...even today.

Eric Muller-Girard is a lifelong Presbyterian and a Ruling Elder at Forest Hill. He describes himself as "an artist in several media, a teacher and stay-at-home dad; one with a flawless knack for finding unpaid volunteer activities ...and the most patient wife in the world."

Kathryn (Kathy) Haag is a lifelong Roman Catholic and the Associate Director for the Pastoral Ministry Office, Diocese of Cleveland. She has extensive experience in pastoral care and lay ministry formation, and has served the church's mission, both in Central America and in Cleveland.

DECEMBER 21, 2014

Rabbi Ba'al Shem Tov (1698-1760): Mystic and Transformer

Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, known as the Ba'al Shem Tov (master of the Good Name), lived in the 18th century and is considered to be the founder of Chasidic Judaism. He was known in his lifetime to be a holy man and was widely regarded for his teachings and philosophy. He emphasized a love of God, extemporaneous prayer, love for fellow human beings, and finding the joy in life and religion. His teachings are best preserved in the legendary stories that are told about him and his deeds.

Rabbi Melinda Mersack is the Director of Interfaith Family Engagement for the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. She serves as a resource and connector for interfaith families wishing to explore and/or participate in Jewish life in Greater Cleveland. Prior to serving as the Director of Interfaith Family Engagement, Rabbi Mersack served as a rabbi at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Beachwood.

Announcements...continued from p. 2

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

Dacia Prins (children) dacia@fhcpresb.org, ext 206

Anne Wilson (music), annew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208

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

Introducing the New FHC Logo

Several years ago, a group of Church Growth members and artists from our congregation began a conversation about updating the Forest Hill Church “brand.” In addition to adding our “Come and see” tagline to various print and electronic materials, we started searching for a logo to visually represent our congregation.

When husband-and-wife graphic artists Denise Ziganti and John Scavnicky began attending Forest Hill this past spring, we asked if they would be interested in working on a logo for us. They agreed and began a 6-month journey to a new logo.

After more than a dozen designs and re-designs (and re-designs!), along with much back and forth among Church Growth members, the staff, and a small focus group, our new logo has been approved by Session.



As you can see, the logo combines a graphic symbol with specific typography that displays beautifully both vertically and horizontally.

The focal point is the tree, giving instant recognition to the “Forest” in “Forest Hill.” The branches and leaves signify both our inward focus on growth—through education and spiritual development—and our outward focus on social justice—through community action. As a nature element, the tree also reflects our commitment to sustainability and stewardship of God’s resources.

The trunk of the tree itself is a cross, representing the centrality of Christ to our ministry and missions. It also represents the strength of our foundation, our 100+ year history in Cleveland Heights, and our grounding and faith in the community.

The font used is the very elegant and easy-to-read Century Gothic. Its wide open letters, particularly the “O” in FOREST and the “C” in CHURCH, reflect our identity as a congregation open to people of every different age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, marital status, economic status, differences of thought or belief, or any other form of diversity.

In recognition of our historic and ongoing relationship with the Presbyterian denomination and its reformed and always reforming theology, the word “presbyterian” is an integral part of the logo. It is spelled with a lower-case “p” denoting our hospitality to seekers of all faiths and unity with other Christian denominations.

Finally, the cross/trunk and branches/leaves are always depicted in two colors in recognition of our commitment to diversity and inclusion in all we do. When the logo is represented in full color, these two colors are blue (Pantone® 308) and green (Pantone® 342) strengthening the “forest” imagery in our name and representing both earth and heaven. (Because these are new colors for FHC, efforts will be made to use them as consistently as possible to be effective as part of FHC’s identity system.)

When the logo is printed in black and white, the logo changes slightly for clarity. However, whether in black and white, two tone, or full color, the colors of the tree always meet in the center of the cross to represent the coming together of all people in Christ.



Please be sure to seek out and meet Deni Ziganti and John Scavnicky and thank them for the incredibly generous donation of their time and talent to the ministry of Forest Hill Church. For more examples of Deni and John's artistic endeavors and to see one of the many different logos they created for us to choose from, visit their Dezindz (pronounced "designs") website at <http://www.dezindz.com/>. And for a special treat, visit John's watercolor portrait page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/watercolorsfromlife.

If you have any questions about creating materials containing our logo, please see Lynda Bernays or Peg Weissbrod.

Elder Peg Weissbrod
and the Church Growth Committee's Logo Team

***New Lenten Experience
at Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian!***

Living in the Spirit!
**An 8-Week "Inner Pilgrimage"
& Prayer Experience**

8 Sundays, Feb. 1 through March 22, 2015, 5-7:00pm

Limited to 35 participants

Cost: \$40.00

Registration Deadline: Jan. 25, 2015

Living in the Spirit:

a Scripture-based spiritual-practice small group series based on the insights of Ignatius of Loyola promoting deeper knowledge of Christ

For 8 Sundays in Lent you will:

- Meet with your trained table facilitator and a consistent small group
- Attend both small faith-sharing groups and larger-group presentations
- Learn different methods of prayer and experiment with daily personal prayer practices

The series is for “beginning spiritual explorers” to “seasoned faith leaders.” It is progressive and cumulative: please register only if you can attend all or nearly all of the 8 weekly sessions.

Special Informational Event: Sunday, Dec. 14, 12:30 pm

Questions? Contact: Rev. Clover Beal (216) 321-2660 pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org

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Registration – Return to FHC Office or Offering Plate

Name_____

Church I attend _____

Address

City/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____ (please print)

*When registering, please include \$40 cash or check payable to Forest Hill Church with **LITS** in the memo line.*

Please register no later than Jan.25, 2015

NOTE: Registration Fees are transferrable, but non-refundable.

Book for Black History Month

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, a #1 New York Times best seller, has been chosen as our Black History Month book. Our committee found this book to be a real page-turner. The book discussion will take place during our Soul Food Pot Luck in Fellowship Hall on Feb. 22 after worship.

Henrietta Lacks was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

Dr. Faye Gary will facilitate the discussion.

Faye A. Gary, EdD, RN, FAAN is the Medical Mutual of Ohio Professor for Vulnerable and At-Risk Persons at Case Western Reserve University. For more than three decades, Dr. Gary has worked in child and adolescent mental health care and substance abuse disorders prevention and treatment. She is a founding member of Arnette House, a shelter in North Central Florida for runaway and homeless children. She has taught ethics at juvenile detention centers and public schools in Central Florida and has published in nursing, medical, interdisciplinary, and scientific journals and textbooks.

The Black History Month committee will have 30 copies for purchase, and in keeping with our status as a green congregation, please note that the book can be purchased in versions to suit virtually all electronic reading platforms, and even in recorded versions for those who prefer listening rather than visual reading.

Please join us.

The Black History Month Committee

Barb Cloud, Jordan Dail, Ajah Hales, Robyn Hales, Shannon Headon, Vikki Nowak, Ann Williams, and Caleb Alexander Wright



The Stewardship Ministry thanks everyone who has submitted a pledge for 2015. While we celebrated the official end of the 2015 Stewardship Season on Nov. 9 with our annual Cornucopia Luncheon, if you have not yet done so there's still time to submit your 2015 pledge. It is important for us to receive the remaining pledges by Sunday, Dec. 14, because Session will be meeting on Dec. 17 to evaluate the proposed 2015 budget in light of the 2015 pledges.

We have made significant progress toward our goal of \$710,000. We hope that individuals and families who have not yet submitted a pledge will prayerfully consider making one in the coming weeks. The spiritual discipline and practice of pledging and contributing financially to Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian is one way God calls us to live our Christian faith.

We also offer a special thank you to Morag and Tom Keefe for their incredible assistance with the Cornucopia Luncheon, as well as the following individuals who helped us to set-up and decorate, serve, and/or clean-up following the luncheon:

Nick Baumgartner
Shawn Bittner
Wendy Brock
Dale Dannefer

Paul Jennings
Scott Lafferty
Deanne Lentz
Jim Manista

Elizabeth Shaw
Anne Wilson

We appreciate the wonderful assistance we received; it made for a truly enjoyable event. Thanks and apologies to any helpers we missed!

Finally, we give thanks for our congregation's support of the ministries and operations of the church. The Holy Spirit continues to surprise and enliven the work of our ministries, ministers, lay-leaders, small groups, and all of the other individuals who so generously give their time, talents and financial treasures to Forest Hill Church. We are truly blessed!

Yours faithfully,

The Ministry of Stewardship

Dele Solaru, Chair; Scott Peters, Steve Sedam and Peter Williams

The US-China Climate Agreement



On November 12, President Obama and Premier Xi announced a ground-breaking agreement on limiting carbon emissions during the next several years. There are many nay-sayers to this agreement; some say that China will not comply, others say that our own economy will suffer as jobs will be lost if/as we do comply.

But the simple truth is that both countries now acknowledge that increasing carbon emissions – mainly from burning fossil fuels (and feedlot agribusiness) – are more than just partially responsible for global warming. Any agreement which the two leading polluters undertake sends a strong message to the rest of the world to do something as well. Will China curb their emissions *now* and not just limit their growth, and not wait until 2030 to actually *reduce* them? The pictures we see coming from Shanghai, Beijing, and other metropolitan areas where the masked masses are shrouded in smog suggest that the people will not stand for doing nothing much longer. On our side, any job loss created by turning away from coal-fired power plants will be (should be) replaced by growing numbers of jobs available in renewable industries: solar, wind, or even electric vehicles. Change, after all, is inevitable – we no longer manufacture buggy whips, slide rules, or telephone booths.

Where do we as members of faith fall into line on this issue? Members of faith espouse optimism and hope, not skepticism, and a belief that God and the Spirit will dwell on the world's leaders and government bodies to 'do the right thing' to protect the environment – God's earth. Individually, we should encourage our elected representatives, and be ever conscientious to do our own part – simple things such as limiting and prudent management of the resources we use (fuels, paper products, water).

What about prayer for personal and corporate blessing and guidance on earth care? Did anyone mention prayer? Faith, hope and prayer give us the framework for each of us to do our part.

Dave Neff and the Earth Care Team

News of Our Church Family

Births

Carter Hugh Strachan, son of Robert and Leslie Richards Strachan, was born October 26, 2014. Carol Leslie is Carter's great-aunt.

Baptisms

LeDon Headen was baptized November 9, 2014. Zen and Lyric Headen, children of LaDon and Shannon Headen, were also baptized on Nov. 9. Kermit Lind was the attending Elder.

Marriages

Amanda Mervine and John Horan were married at FHC on October 25, 2014. Rev. Clover Beal officiated.

In Memoriam We Remember

Richard Bloomquist, who died October 22, 2014.

New Contact Information

Scott and Jean Duncan

3339 Hickory Neck Blvd
Toano VA 23168

After January 15:
8040 Fairmont Dr.
Williamsburg, VA 23188

We welcomed the following new members on Nov. 9:

Melanie Alban, a retired accounting administrator from Chicago, recently moved here from Rocky River, OH. An ordained Presbyterian Elder, she is also a member of the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission. Joining by Letter of Transfer from Rocky River Presbyterian Church. (Nazareth CARE Group)

Leslie D. Clement, a long-time Cleveland Heights resident and social worker, is the twin sister of FHC member Lia Clement. She is active in various community groups and marched with FHC in this year's Pride Parade. Joining by Reaffirmation of Faith. (Canaan CARE Group)

Carline Paul-Blanc and **Jerry (Lourdevic) Delva** are natives of Henche, Haiti and members of FHC's Haiti team. Carline has two adult sons. Joining by Reaffirmation of Faith. (Mt. Sinai CARE Group)

LaDon Headen, married to FHC member Shannon Headen and father of Lotus, Zen, and Lyric Headen, joined Lotus and Zen in being baptized on November 9. Joining by Profession of Faith. (Bethlehem CARE Group)

Elizabeth Endicott-Heston and **Alex Heston** are former members of Bethany Covenant Church in Lyndhurst. Alex is a mechanical engineer and an ordained Elder. Joining by Letter of Transfer. (Calvary CARE Group)

Kate Kolmodin (spouse Joel, parent of Deegan and Alanah) is a chaplain at the Cleveland Clinic and a Reformed Church of America pastor. She is joining by Letter of Transfer from Calvary Reformed Church in Cleveland. (Jerusalem CARE Group)

Bill (William) and Sandy Ladebue are recent transfers to Cleveland and the parents of long-time visitor Danielle Cosgrove. They are joining by Letter of Transfer from Newtonsburg Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania. (Calvary CARE Group)

Carol Sims, mother of long-time FHC visitor Joie Hill, is a retired kindergarten teacher for the Lynchburg Public Schools, and a recent transfer to the Cleveland area. Joining by Letter of Transfer from Messiah Methodist Church in Virginia. (Bethlehem CARE Group)

Tammy (Theresa) Steele, daughter of FHC members Margie and Dwight Stauffer, grew up at FHC and recently moved here from Seattle, Washington. A nanny with an extensive children's education background, Tammy is joining by Letter of Transfer from Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church on Bainbridge Island, WA. (Eden CARE Group)

Care Group

The All-Church CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during December. Yes, that means all of us! Barb Cloud (faithleader52@yahoo.com or 216-321-9112) is the coordinator.

Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Bill and Kay Currie, Flora Dannemiller, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron and Florence Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

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

December Ushers

Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

Volunteer Hours in October

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Pat Jenkins, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn and the TOWER assembly team (Cathy Ghiandoni, Betty Clark, Marilyn Wilk) – worked a total of 80.5 hours in October. Thank you all!

Social Groups and Circles

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

The Group will gather on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 5:00 pm for cocktails, 6:00 for dinner at the home of Joe and Betsy Andrews (2740 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights). BYOB and a dish to share.

We will collect and wrap Christmas gifts for a family of 5 from Boulevard School. For reservations and details for gift giving ideas, please contact Cathy Ghiandoni (ghiandoni.c@gmail.com or 216- 691-1905).

Note that this is on SUNDAY this year.

December 14, Andrews' home, 5 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church): **School Daze**

Iris Circle will meet on December 16 at noon in Bodwell Hall to look back at their elementary “school daze.” Come with a packed lunch (dessert and beverage will be provided), and share your treasures and memories from your elementary years. We’ll walk down memory lane together!

Nov. 16, FHC Bodwell Hall, 12:00 pm

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