

John C. Lentz, Pastor  
Lois Annich, Rachel McDonald, Interim Associate Pastors

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



The Tower

January 2016

*The people who walked in deep darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.*

Isaiah 9:2

Merry Christmas everyone, and a Happy New Year!

It is time to get cracking, for we have much to do. Here at the church January may be the busiest month of the year: preparing for the annual meeting, training newly elected leaders, planning retreats, and getting final numbers crunched for the 2016 budget! And on top of all that, Easter is REALLY early this year (March 27), which means that Ash Wednesday (the beginning of the Lenten season) is on February 10. There are only 4 Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday! (I am tired already.)

And on top of, in addition to, and running through all this is the commotion of the primaries and debates and the upcoming conventions and the campaigns and the campaigning. There are so many issues to discuss and to face in our country as we choose our leaders. There are so many concerns that beset us as we read our newspapers and pray for the state of our world. It is overwhelming – we might as well admit it.

But we, as the people of God at Forest Hill Church, as Christians who join with those who have knelt at the manger of Jesus to welcome to King of Kings, should enter 2016 changed. We are the people that Isaiah talks about. We have seen a great light. We, who live “in a land of deep darkness” (and profound promise), have been illuminated.

So I encourage you to claim the light and act as if you have gotten a really good, holy sunburn.

I don't care what political party you belong to – and I trust that we will all be civil to one another as the election heats up! As followers of Jesus who believe that love casts out fear, we need to check our fears at the door. As Christians who pattern our lives after Christ, we welcome everyone.

We have seen the light. We have stood in the light. Jesus calls us to be light bearers into the gloominess of our world. Let our light shine! The darkness cannot put it out. We can be difference makers!

Bless you and together we will turn up the lumens and the wattage!



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

### ***Homeless Stand Down: January 23***

Want to have a memorable Saturday morning this January? Join the Forest Hill Church Stand Down Team! The Homeless Stand Down, an annual service event scheduled for January 23, 2016 at Public Auditorium, needs volunteers. As a member of our team, you would be serving as “personal shoppers” for families or individuals. Our shift runs from 7:30 – 11:30 am; we'll follow up with a celebratory lunch at Nighttown in Cleveland Hts. For more details and to sign up, please go to this address:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4baaaa22a3fd0-homeless>.

Jack Breisch

In Christ's love,

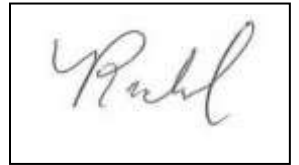


It's been over three months since Rachel and I began our interim ministry at Forest Hill Church. I have so enjoyed participating in worship, serving you through pastoral care, and working with the various ministries of the church. John, Rachel and I have been engaging with the Session in conversations about Forest Hill's identity and mission as a way of thinking about future staffing needs. All in all, it's been a richly rewarding fall.

As we approach Christ's birth and Epiphany, I want to wish you the gift of awareness. At Christmas we celebrate Emmanuel—God with us. I pray that you will take that presence very seriously in the New Year, and let it continually transform the way you think, feel, and act. I wish you the gift of slowing down each day, if only for a few moments, and feeling your breath as it moves in and out of your body. When the world presses in on you with its crises, temptations and demands, may you remember that God is as close to you as that breath and loves you with an everlasting love. When you are feeling overwhelmed or disheartened may you be aware of God's presence in the gifts of community, nature, silence, music, art, service, worship and laughter. In this season of love and light, may you truly know the peace and joy only God's presence can bring!

Rev. Lois Annich  
Interim Associate Pastor

One of the biggest shifts happening in the American Protestant church is that people are no longer showing up “just because.” This can be a bummer if you care to obsess over statistics or gloomy predictions, but it also helps us rearticulate what we are about as a community.



With that in mind, I've been thinking about the reasons why I (still) come to church:

5. To sing with a group of people. I can sing by myself, but it never recreates the feeling of congregational singing and the experience of being together.
4. To be with people who aren't my age.
3. To learn about scripture. It's important to be in a place where I trust the leadership and the teaching, as it is so easy to be a google scholar and assume I have the best information.
2. Because I have a responsibility to be at church. This is one that has evolved, especially as now my paycheck comes from the church. But part of my commitment to the church is because I was given authority and responsibility early in my faith journey. This has cultivated a sense of belonging and purpose in the church.

*And the Number One reason is...*

1. To encounter the transforming love of God. This one's tricky, because I have to admit I don't always feel this while *at* church. But I almost always recognize this when I am with a group of people who are *being* the church together.

These are just a few reasons; I'm sure I could come up with more if you asked me. What I find encouraging is that Forest Hill Church does not strike me as a community of people who show up at church just because.

So that makes me ask, why do you come to church? I'd love to hear your reasons.

Blessings,

Rachel McDonald  
Interim Associate Pastor

## Children's Ministries

December was a busy month! Our Children's Worship class looked at the Christmas story, and the Pathways children participated in a special workshop where they explored some of the big questions of Christmas through video and games. All of our children help create a very memorable Christmas Eve with their participation in our *No Fuss* Christmas Pageant. What a gift they are to all of us! Now that the children have examined Advent and Christmas, we prepare to continue forward on our Covenant Journey.

Sincere thanks to:

- Tracy Long and Kelli Barnes for their faithful service caring for our youngest children in the nursery
- Shannon & LaDon Headen and Karmen Garrett for teaching our Children's Worship class in December
- Danielle Cosgrove and David Burleigh for assisting with Pathways during the month of December.

### Children's Worship

### Preschool and Kindergarten

During the month of January, the Children's Worship Class will be learning about Jesus' early life and his baptism. They will be exploring these stories through response crafts. Be sure to ask your children about the story each week.

### Pathways to the Promise Land

### Grades 1-5

Our Pathways children will begin the New Year with the parable story of the *Good Samaritan*. Jesus told the parable of the *Good Samaritan* to express new understanding of the Covenant. This story is, of course, so relevant to our lives now. Each one of us should faithfully consider what our response is to the victims in our world. The children will examine this story through art, crafts and a service project, and discuss what it really means to be a neighbor to others.

## **January Dates to Know**

### **January 3                      Communion - KISS (Kids in Sunday Service)**

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will worship and take communion with their families. The Children's Worship class will begin in their classroom and then join their families for communion.

### **January 10                      Gathering Time**

Pathways children, grades 1-5, will begin in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. and then be dismissed to their workshops with their shepherds.

### **January 17, 24, and 31                      Pathways to the Promise Land**

Children in grades 1-5 will begin in worship, and then will be dismissed to their workshops.

Peace to all,

Kate Burleigh  
Director of Children's Ministries

## **What to Say in Fellowship Hall**

*"Merry Christmas!"*



## Music

Dear Forest Hill Friends,

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

On January 3, we look forward to singing *We Three Kings* as our three FHC kings journey down the aisle, decked out in their beautiful flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapié) as they offer their glittering treasures to the Christ Child.

Remember throwing pennies into the baskets of Descant Choir singers in November when we sang *The Scottish Penny Song*? Well, you threw in \$165.00 worth of them! This money was donated to the FHC Food Pantry which offers food every Tuesday to people in need. Thank you for your generosity.

In the New Year, the choirs will be preparing for an early Lent (Ash Wednesday is February 10), a Compline service in late February, a Bach Sunday, and a collaborative concert with the Singers Club of Cleveland on March 13. I'm so grateful for all the support that the FHC congregation gives to the music program!

New choir members are welcome at any time, but January is a particularly good starting time, since we're learning all new music. Come give it a try! We all need artistic outlets that help us block out the stresses of our world. Singing music, particularly sacred music, is a gift to your soul.

Soli Deo Gloria~~

Anne Wilson  
216-321-2660  
annew@fhcpresb.org



## **AM Education & Spiritual Development**

Happy New Year!

In January we will be focusing on the Christian Lexicon by unpacking common “church” words and phrases.

## **Fellowship**



**January 10:** Parents and Grandparents, please join for a Parent Potluck at 5 pm (place to be determined).

Youth Lock-in TBD

Bowling Night TBD

## **Praise & Thanksgiving**

Blessings to our amazing youth leaders!

Thank you to the Crucifers and Youth Readers! You're awesome!

## **Contact Info**

Shannon M. Headen

**Director of Youth Ministries**

**[Shannon@fhcpresb.org](mailto:Shannon@fhcpresb.org)**

**216-496-6462**



***The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Forest Hill Church will be held after worship on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Lunch will be served. All are welcome to attend; only active members vote.***

## **Forest Hill Church New Officers – 2016**

### **Deacons**

#### **Sally Davis**

Sally has attended Forest Hill Church for 36 years, and has served as a Deacon and on the Ministry of Stewardship. She has participated in Adult Education, The Seekers, Iris Circle, and pilgrimages to Turkey-Greece and to Rome. Sally is a retired elementary teacher and university instructor, and is currently a marketing representative for an educational publishing company. She enjoys visual, music and theater arts.

#### **John Dugard**

John joined Forest Hill Church four years ago. He has been involved in Bible and Bagels, Adult Education classes, Faith Leader and the Nominating Committee. He currently works as the Manager of Building Services at a long-term care facility. He graduated with honors from Cleveland State University 4 years ago with a degree in Non-Profit Administration. John is married to Sheryl Dugard and has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He enjoys studying family history, photography and poetry.

#### **Ellen McChesney**

Ellen has been a member of Forest Hill Church for 53 years – she received a Bible in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and was confirmed when she was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She has served on the nominating committee and as a Deacon. Currently she works with Abundance Pantry and as a TOWER collator. She is retired from University Hospitals.

#### **Robin Mervine**

Robin has been a member of Forest Hill Church for 33 years. She is an ordained Deacon and Elder and has worked with Family Promise and the Homeless Stand Down. She has completed the Faith Leader program and has been a Pathways shepherd.

#### **Seth Ungemach**

## **Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation**

**Laurie Logan (E)**

### **Alex Heston**

Alex has attended FHC for 4 years and has been a member for 1. He has participated in Adult Education and the spring and fall work days. He is married to Elizabeth Endicott-Heston; they have two grown children – Phil, a student at OSU, and Amelia, a med student at University of Toledo. Alex was elected an Elder at a church he attended before joining FHC, spent time in India as a child, and has authored technical publications.

## **Ministry of Justice and Mission**

**Jessica Kelley-Moore (E)**

### **Margaret Glaros and Michael Glaros**

Mike and Margie joined Forest Hill Church last summer after attending for several years. Mike was born and raised in Columbus and has lived in Cleveland for at least 42 years, as he taught economics at Mentor High School for 35 years and retired in 2009. He enjoys working with Abundance Food Pantry (and works HARD every week). He also enjoys sailing and fishing for walleye and perch.

Margie was raised in Berea and was a special ed teacher at Boulevard School in Shaker Heights for 27 years. She enjoys sewing and quilting, reading, visiting with friends and caring for Lizzie, their golden retriever. Margie volunteers with the Abundance Pantry lunches and has participated in numerous Adult Ed classes.

Mike and Margie have been married for 44 years; they have one son and two grandchildren in Columbus.

### **Ann Williams**

Ann has been a member of FHC for about 30 years, with occasional times of worshiping regularly elsewhere. She sings in the choir, is currently a member of the Black History Month committee, and served as an elder on Ministry of Worship. She has worked on various education, spiritual formation, and social justice projects. Ann is a nurse and a CDE (certified diabetes educator) and has worked extensively with visually impaired people, first as a clinician and then as a researcher. She is on faculty at the

nursing school of Case Western Reserve University. She and her husband Peter have been married for 44 years. They have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren. Ann's father, Baldwin Sawyer is also a member and a chorister.

## **Ministry of Stewardship**

### **Melanie Alban (E)**

Melanie transferred her membership from Rocky River PC, where she was ordained an Elder) in November 2014. Since then she has served as an Elected Leader on Stewardship and as an Abundance Pantry Lunch volunteer, and has participated in Adult Ed, Iris Circle and Hilltoppers. She is a retired Accounting Director, and moved to Cleveland from Chicago to be near her daughter and grandchildren (the Ullom family).

### **Bill Ladebue**

Bill and his wife Sandy moved to Cleveland several years ago to be near their daughter Danielle Cosgrove and her family; they joined Forest Hill Church 2 years ago. In their previous church Bill was ordained an elder and served on the pastor nominating committee. At Forest Hill Bill and Sandy teach in Sunday school and joined the Detroit pilgrimage. Bill works for PNC Bank; he volunteered with Jubilee Soup Kitchen in Pittsburgh for 25 years.

## **Trustees**

### **Allan Khoury (E)**

### **S. Kay Dunlap**

Kay has attended Forest Hill Church for 6 years and joined 4 years ago. She has served on the Ministry of Justice and Mission and has participated in the fall and spring work days, the Homeless Standdown, the Boulevard School Outreach and book drives, and Labre. She is a retired educator (from the Shaker Hts schools), was an associate professor at John Carroll University and does private tutoring at Hathaway Brown and Laurel Schools. She is studying piano (as an adult beginner) and is challenging herself to hike all the major metropark trails and paths.

## **Carol Gifford**

Carol has been a member of Forest Hill Church for 32 years. She has served on the Board of Christian Education, and has participated on the cheering squad for the softball team, in Pacesetters, the Voices in Bronze bell choir, and a women's circle. She is probably the only trustee who has been the Forest Hill Easter Bunny!

## **Ministry of Vocation and Leadership**

### **Caleb Wright (Church Growth)**

### **Leslie Clement (Lay Leadership Development)**

Leslie began attending Forest Hill Church four years ago and joined in October 2014. She has participated in the Race Core Program, the Women's Lenten series, a women's retreat, the Progressive Christianity class, last year's Living in the Spirit program, the recent Dinner Conversations group and Faith Leader. Leslie is a clinical social worker specializing in mental health and substance abuse. Her twin sister Lia Clement is also a member of FHC.

### **Jeannine Gury (Lay Leadership Development)**

## **Nominating Committee**

### **Julie Lustic (E)**

Julie has been a member of FHC for 18 years. She has served on the nominating committee and as an elder on the Ministry of Justice and Mission; with Anne Smith and Sue Lafferty, she coordinated the Family Promise hosting program. She is a teacher in Cleveland Heights. Julie enjoys gardening and bicycling; she and her husband Gary have 3 grown daughters and a soon-to-be-born grandchild.

### **Wendy Brock**

Wendy, along with her husband Robert, has been a member of FHC for 23 years; their 3 kids have grown up in the church. She has served on both the nominating committee and the deacons several times. She has enjoyed teaching Pathways (and church school before that) for the past 20 years. She has plan and implement advent workshops. Her family has been part of the Pacesetters, the Lilac Circle women's group, the softball team and many mission trips. She says, "We love the feeling of family FHC offers us."

**David Peterjohn**

**Karen Loughridge and Barb Cloud** are serving on the Nominating Committee for a second year.

### **Ministry of Worship**

#### **Patty Console (E)**

Patty and her family have attended Forest Hill Church since 2000, and Patty has been a member for 15 years. She has served on the nominating committee and one of the search committees for a youth director. She sings in the choir and has been both president and secretary; she has also worked with the youth, teaching mid-high classes and confirmation and advising youth activities. Patty and her husband Ron's have 2 children, Matthew and Lena, who are both young adults and were baptized and confirmed here. Matthew was married here, and Lena, a trumpeter, often plays for special occasions.

#### **Beth Garrett**

Beth has been a member of FHC for 5 years. She has served as a garden worker, in the Sunday nursery and as a greeter. Beth grew up in a clergy household and enjoys being able to worship quietly; however, she knows it is important to be active and to set a good example for her 1-year-old daughter Maya.

#### **Barry Hartz**

#### **Joyce Pope**

Joyce has attended Forest Hill Church since she was part of the Turkey and Greece pilgrimage in March, 2011. She has been a member (as well as a deacon and an elder) of Fairmount PC since 1981; she regularly attends St. Paul's Episcopal Church and First Baptist Church. She says, "I identify as a Christian who is transformed by the Spirit, alive in a variety of faithful communities. I am a 'connector' and because of my unique involvement in more than one church I am able to help seekers find a place that fits." Joyce attends Bible and Bagels and volunteers at the Abundance Food Pantry meals. She is a retired educator, and an active community volunteer and supporter. Joyce is a widow and has 2 grown children; she enjoys traveling and taking her three grandchildren on trips.

## **Dele Solaru**

Dele has been a member of FHC for 18 years and has participated as an usher, on the Ministry of Stewardship, as a Deacon and in Faith Leader. She works in the healthcare insurance industry. Dele and her husband Damos have two sons, Reni and Demo, who grew up and were confirmed at FHC.

## **Chris Vandall**

*These names will be presented by Ron Polderman, Elder for the Nominating Committee, for a vote by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.*

### **Session Scavenger Hunt: A Challenge to the Session at their November meeting**

1. What time is it on the pulpit clock?
2. What is the phone number for questions/concerns about the Stair Lift?
3. Who is the Deacon Leader for November?
4. Where is the yearly calendar?
5. For whom is the library named?
6. How many families left the church when Ned Edwards was installed as pastor?
7. What are the three parts of the church's mission statement?
8. What are the Pathways children studying in November?
9. In whose memory is the foyer furnished?
10. In what language (other than English) is Hymn #389 sung?
11. What is on the floor of Bodwell Hall?
12. How many entrances to the church are there?
13. How many senior pastors have there been since 1945?
14. In 1957, Marideen Vischer, the Director of Christian Education, was the \_\_\_\_\_ woman ordained in the PC(USA).
15. What was one previous name of the Ministry of Justice and Mission?
16. What room number is the Children's Library?
17. When was Greater Cleveland Congregations founded?

## Haiti Report

The team of Forest Hill Church members who went to Haiti in November returned with good news about what they experienced! We went to the little village of Gabo where the community is managing the well for which we raised money for the purchase price. We saw Haiti Outreach in action with village leaders designing regulations for a community water system management. We attended church, visited an orphanage, went to the outdoor market, walked into Pignon and hung out on street corners. We saw progress in rebuilding the capitol, Port-au-Prince.

The experience included working alongside partners in community development and playing with kids who found us fascinating for some reason. Being able to discuss community well projects with villagers and Haiti Outreach staff was especially important. It clarified that the work we were doing together was not merely about access to clean water, it was about transforming empowerment leading to improved sanitation, better nutrition and health, and hope for a better future.



*The completed well house, with buckets ready to draw water*

Team members are eager to share their experiences and pictures with people. Look for announcements of presentations at FHC in 2016. Any class, club or other group who would like an illustrated presentation about this trip and what we experienced are invited to contact Deanne Lentz (lentz.deanne@gmail.com) or Jeff Smith (Jeffsmith2756@gmail.com) to schedule a program.

Elder Kermit Lind

*Photos by Deanne Lentz and Steve Sedam*



*FHC Haiti Team with leaders and residents of Gabo at the water well paid for by members and friends of FHC*

## **The Power of Empowerment**

I was skeptical when I signed up to go to Haiti on a "cultural immersion" trip --- to immerse oneself in the culture of Haiti and to observe the work and vision of Haiti Outreach, an NGO that develops community around wells. What would I see that would give me new insights into Haiti? How immersed can we be as foreigners who don't speak the language? I had been to Haiti on two other trips and I was familiar with the appalling poverty and the lack of roads, electricity, and infrastructure. But I also knew firsthand the incredible beauty of Haiti, the rugged mountains, the dignity and pride of its people, and the resilience of their spirit. If this was not a tourist trip, nor a work trip, what really is an "immersion" trip?

The main reason I was going to Haiti was to see a well. At an unforgettable fundraiser event in September 2014 at an upscale west-side Cleveland restaurant and with artist-donated quilts, paintings and glass vase, Forest Hill Church raised \$15,000 to sponsor a well. I was determined to visit "our" well, learn about the community and be able to report back to our donors and members.

I was pleased at how "immersed" we were in the local culture -- we went to the markets, spent hours and hours driving the roads and paths standing on the back of a Chevy pickup truck, worshiped at the Pentecostal church, toured the town, drank beer at the local watering hole, slurped up delicious pumpkin soup at the town diner, played with the children at the orphanage, kicked the soccer ball with the local kids and toured the town school.



But believe it or not, the highlight of our trip was "well committee meetings"!! We witnessed three different communities at various stages of the well process -- in the beginning stage of acquiring a well, conducting their census and collaboratively determining the rules and management practices. Another community, finished with the preliminary work and the digging of the well, was hosting the all-important Inauguration Ceremony – a community-wide event where the keys of the well are passed along to all the players and the key ends up with the well guard - symbolizing the community now has authority and responsibility to manage the well. And the third community meeting we observed was Gabo - the community of "our" funded well - who had their Inauguration ceremony back in Dec. 2014 but were strategizing how to pay for and make repairs to the well.

At each meeting we observed members of the community - men and women, young and old – come together to take responsibility and act to improve the quality of their lives. They were empowered to make decisions to manage the well and ensure its longevity to sustain their health and community well-being. We heard (through the translator) members say – "We do not want handouts. We know we have to do this ourselves." And when we asked how the process of obtaining and managing the well has translated into other parts of their lives, they responded:

"We know how to talk to one another to resolve our disputes."

"Having the well has increased the number of households with latrines."

"We are taking the skills and principles of responsibility, authority and transparency and going to our local officials to request a school."

OMG! We were elated to see remote Haitian communities with clean water, but more importantly we saw they had something far more valuable – power. Because they did what they had not known – they organized, acted for themselves, used their own resources and improved their lives – they will now use those skills to advance other areas of their lives. The power of empowerment knows no end. Haiti Outreach is not just in the well business - they are in the empowerment business.

Our \$15,000 was WELL spent! WELL done, Haiti Outreach. WELL done Forest Hill Church. WELL done Gabo.

Elder Deanne Lentz

## **So, I've Made a Pledge. Now What?**

The Forest Hill Church Stewardship Campaign has come and gone. You did your part and faithfully pledged your support. But how best to fulfill your pledge, bearing in mind that the church's financial commitments are regular and ongoing? There are a variety of ways you might want to consider.

### **Besides writing a check, how else can I fulfill my pledge?**

There are several alternatives to a check and they are all easy to do. You can:

1. Work through your bank to set-up an automated bill pay.
2. Make a gift of stock.
3. Pay your pledge online via PayPal through the FHC website (on the right-hand side of the home page, click Give Online, or see p. 19 of this TOWER for a QR code).

### **What is the most tax advantaged way to fulfill my pledge?**

All gifts to Forest Hill Church to fulfill your pledge are tax deductible. However, with a gift of highly appreciated stock, you are able to receive not only a tax deduction for the value of the gifted stock but also avoid paying capital gains tax if the gifted stock has gained in value.

### **How do I make a gift of stock?**

Inform your investment advisor or stock broker of your interest in making a gift of stock to FHC, then select a stock and the number of shares you want to donate. To transfer the stock to FHC, you need to know the DTC number (0226), and the church's account number with Fidelity (Z44-320633). It is crucial that you or the stock broker contact the church's Financial Administrator, Becky Austin, to alert the church that the gift will be coming, who it is from and what stock is being gifted. Becky can be reached at [BeckyA@fhcpresb.org](mailto:BeckyA@fhcpresb.org) or [\(216\) 321-2660](tel:(216)321-2660).

### **When can I make a gift of stock?**

Another great advantage of making a gift of stock is that you can do it whenever you want. Many people gift stock when the market is high, thereby getting the most value per share. Stock gifts can be used to fulfill your pledge all at once or in increments.

## **I use automated bill pay to pay my electric bill. Can I do the same to pay my pledge?**

Yes, you can pay your pledge on a regular basis by using your bank's online banking services! Just set up Forest Hill Church as a regular payee as you may currently do for your utility or other reoccurring bills. There's no cost to you as most banks offer it as a free service and Forest Hill receives 100% of your payment. Automated bill paying is especially helpful when you may be away or ill. Payments are made to FHC on the dates you specify. Check your bank's website and choose "online bill pay" to get started. You may contact Becky if you have any questions or want confirmation that your gifts are being received. At this time, online bill payment is the only automated process the church has in place to receive regular pledge payments.

Your pledge, an expression of your spiritual commitment, helps to spread God's love through the many programs and ministries of Forest Hill Church. Through your pledge, you are having an impact on the hungry and the homeless, those who are ill and those grieving, those seeking hope and uplift in a sometimes dark world.

However you choose to support Forest Hill Church, your gifts are deeply appreciated. Thank you!

Stephen Sedam for the Ministry of Stewardship



### **Online Giving**

Use a QR code reader to find a link to donate securely via PayPal.

<http://www.fhcpresb.org/about-us/giving>

## What is this “Deacon thing” all about?

Happy New Year!

We have all said and heard this cheerful salutation, and we all mean it. We know on some level that having a “happy new year” assumes we have a support system of friends and family, enough food, housing, money, employment, and good health. The list goes on and on.

One hopes each of us knows how fortunate we are, particularly as we look at the multitudes who have much less. One hopes each of us knows that, fortunate or not, we are vulnerable and in need of love, compassion, and sometimes basic care.

Christ knows we are all in need. In the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-7), it is clear that the call for compassion is the reason the role of Deacon was formed. In this passage, the concern was for the widows whose daily need for food was neglected. Who would look out for them? The Deacons, “full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (v. 3)! Our ministry was set forth in scripture as one of compassion, witness, and service to the sick, the poor, the needy, the friendless – to any and all of us. Deacons serve, and that is why you hear from us about ways we need you to help serve in the life of our church. Ordained or not, we are all deacons.

*Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:31)*

Kathy Carr, Deacon

***Living Prayer* will begin in February  
6 Sundays, February 7 - March 20, 2016; 5-7 pm  
Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian**

*Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18

Paul's exhortation is meant for us today! But how does one "pray without ceasing"? Forest Hill Church, in partnership with the Jesuit Retreat House, Parma, will offer a unique experience of learning anew how to live in the presence of God through the practice of prayer. This 6-week Lenten series is designed to be a spiritual retreat which takes place within the context of your ordinary busy life. We will meet at Forest Hill Church once a week to learn a new prayer practice and then pray with it during the week, returning to share our experiences.

**Program Leaders:** Martha Campbell and Amy McKenna, Jesuit Retreat House Staff Members

**Cost for the series:** \$40.00 per person (this includes all materials) and is payable **at registration**. All participants are subsidized by a generous grant from The Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

**Informational events:** Full particulars about this retreat will be presented at after-worship events at FHC on Jan. 3 and 17. (Attendance at these events is optional/voluntary.)

**Interested?**

Email Eric Muller-Girard or Rev. Lois Annich to ask your questions or to place yourself on the pre-registration list (to hold your seat until **registration opens on January 17.**)

**Registration is limited to 35, and closes on January 31, 2016**

**Rev. Lois Annich** 216.321.2660 [pastorannich@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorannich@fhcpresb.org)

**Eric Muller-Girard** 216.752.7006 [multimg@wowway.com](mailto:multimg@wowway.com)

## **Greater Cleveland Congregations: An update from the recent GCC newsletter**

**James Pearlstein** has jumped in to his position as lead organizer of GCC. His immediate priorities are to recruit new west side and African American congregations in order to grow GCC in numbers, power and effectiveness, and to focus on the organization's fundraising and budget.

**Criminal Justice and Gun Violence teams** have voted to merge, as their concerns have become more closely aligned. Their leadership will be meeting soon to discuss how best to move forward together. The leadership also met recently with the Independent Monitor of the Department of Justice Consent Decree, Matthew Barge, who committed to meeting with us regularly.

GCC is in the midst of a listening campaign in the 4<sup>th</sup> district (much of southeast Cleveland), and in Cleveland Heights. Forest Hill Church and St. Paul's are planning a listening session at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on January 31 at 7 pm to learn of concerns around gun violence.

The team is planning a response to the Tamir Rice verdict when it is announced (this may be just before Christmas, but we expect in the next 30-60 days). Stay tuned!

**The Education Team** is launching another round of our "Listen. Act. Win." campaign in schools to hear what issues are priorities for parents, teachers and administrators. We also continue to build relationships between schools and congregations, and meet monthly with Eric Gordon, CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Efforts are underway to assess needs in Cleveland Heights and other districts as well.

**Look for a large GCC-wide action at 7 pm on February 16**  
that will focus on the county prosecutor and judges in  
preparation for the primary election on March 15th.

## Interested in Learning More about Forest Hill Church?

- **Visitor Brunch: Sun. Jan. 10**
- **Membership Classes: Sat. Jan 23 and Sun. Jan. 24**

If you're a visitor interested in getting to know more about Forest Hill Church, you're invited to a **Pastor/Visitor Brunch** at the Cleveland Hts. home of Rachel Martinez-Finn and Bill Finn after worship on **Sunday, Jan. 10 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm**. This is a chance to meet the pastors and other church leaders in an informal setting, share your story, and enjoy great food!

If you'd like to explore what it means to be a member of Forest Hill, you are invited to an **Exploring Membership** weekend: **Saturday, Jan. 23 from 9 am-12 pm, and Sunday, Jan. 24, from 9-10:30 am**. (If you can only make it to one of the two classes, Saturday morning is the most essential.)

In our Exploring Membership classes, we:

- Get to know each other –Where do we come from, what are we seeking?
- Get to know more about Presbyterianism
- Learn the vision and values of Forest Hill Church – where the church is headed.
- Discuss the meaning and value of church membership – what is expected of church and member?
- Review the questions asked of those joining the church – what do they mean to you?

Child care can be made available. Let us know if you need it! Register your attendance by calling the office (216-321-2660) or email one of the leaders below. (But if you decide to show up at the last minute - come anyway!)

If now is not the time for you to explore membership with us, know that you and your family are welcome to our worship, fellowship, service and education opportunities.

Rachel Martinez-Finn ([cruzmack@gmail.com](mailto:cruzmack@gmail.com))

Lia Clement ([lia919@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lia919@sbcglobal.net))

Diana Woodbridge ([dwoodbridge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwoodbridge@sbcglobal.net))

Sheryl Dugard ([sad3@case.edu](mailto:sad3@case.edu))

## News of Our Church Family

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

Members of the Mt Sinai CARE Group are:

Kathy Hanna-Stauffer, Deacon leader	Mary Lewis
Joanne Bielek	Julie & Gary Lustic
Guy Cameron & family	Nancy Lyon-Stadler & family
Betty Clark	Brooke Marcy & family
Barb Cloud	Dave & Jane Olson & family
Jerry Delva & Carline Paul-Blanc	Graham & Roz Peters
Jane Frederick & family	Joyce Peters
Donna Frey	Marjorie Ravas
Sue Gifford & family	Matt & Katie Russo & family
Al Gilbert	Gary Sampson
Mike & Margie Glaros	Sara & Randy Shaner
Julie Gran	Anona Stack
Don & Nancy Grube	Kathy Hanna-Stauffer and Derry Stauffer
Barb Hansen	Beverly & Harold Thomas
Chuck & Jane Ishler	Lorian, Ralph & Fran Thomas
Janet Kickel	Ann & Peter Williams
Nina Klein	Warren Young

Thanks to all who helped during December as part of the All-Church Care group.

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

Bill Currie, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie and Dwight Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas

**Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:**

Jack Quinn, Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother).



## Volunteer Hours in November

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Pat Jenkins, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn and the TOWER collators (Betty Clark, Ellen McChesney and Marilyn Wilk) –worked a total of 54 hours in November. Thank you all!

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

#### **Save these February dates**

**Feb 7:** Ordination and Installation  
of officers

**Feb 10:** Ash Wednesday

February is Black History Month! The team has lots of programs planned – watch for more information.

The January Kerygma series on the Song of Songs begins January 10.

**TOWER** deadlines: **7 am** on Jan. 15, Feb. 11 and March 18

February meetings:  
Ministries – Feb 3  
Session – Feb 17

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:

Rev. Dr. John Lentz Jr.	<i>Pastor</i>	<a href="mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org">pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org</a>
Rev. Lois Annich	<i>Interim Assoc. Pastor</i>	<a href="mailto:pastorannich@fhcpresb.org">pastorannich@fhcpresb.org</a>
Rachel McDonald	<i>Interim Assoc. Pastor</i>	<a href="mailto:RachelM@fhcpresb.org">RachelM@fhcpresb.org</a>
Anne Wilson	<i>Music</i>	<a href="mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org">annew@fhcpresb.org</a>
Shannon Headen	<i>Youth</i>	<a href="mailto:shannon@fhcpresb.org">shannon@fhcpresb.org</a>
Kate Burleigh	<i>Children</i>	<a href="mailto:kateb@fhcpresb.org">kateb@fhcpresb.org</a>
Lynda Bernays	<i>Administration</i>	<a href="mailto:office@fhcpresb.org">office@fhcpresb.org</a>
Becky Austin	<i>Finance</i>	<a href="mailto:beckya@fhcpresb.org">beckya@fhcpresb.org</a>
Peg Weissbrod	<i>Outreach</i>	<a href="mailto:webeditor@fhcpresb.org">webeditor@fhcpresb.org</a>
Stavros Gazis	<i>Custodial</i>	<a href="mailto:office@fhcpresb.org">office@fhcpresb.org</a>

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

## Sundays in January

**9:00 Child care begins**

**9:30 Adult education**

**Youth education (gr. 6-12)**

**Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)**

**10:15 Descant Choir activity**

**10:30 Continental Breakfast**

**Chancel Choir**

**11:00 WORSHIP**

**Children's Worship class (preK, K)**

**11:00 Pathways to the Promise Land (Jan. 10)**

**11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land (gr. 1-5)**

**January 3: Children stay in worship for communion**

**12:15 Fellowship Hour**

**Sine Nomine Choir (gr. 6-12) January 10, 24**

**4:00 Labre Project (Jan 10, 24)**

**5:00 Youth Fellowship (gr. 6-12)**

**Faith Leader**

### **January 3: Epiphany**

11:00 Worship: Communion

12:15 Living Prayer informational meeting

**Isaiah 60: 1-6**

**Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14**

**Ephesians 3: 1-12**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

### **January 10: Baptism of the Lord**

12:30 Young Adult Brunch

1:00 Visitors' Brunch (Finns')

5:00 Parent Potluck (gr. 6-12)

**Isaiah 43: 1-7**

**Psalms 29**

**Acts 8: 14-17**

**Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22**

### **January 17**

12:15 Blood Pressure check

Living Prayer informational meeting

**Isaiah 62: 1-5**

**Psalms 36: 5-10**

**1 Corinthians 12: 1-11**

**John 2: 1-11**

### **January 24**

9:00 Exploring Membership class

12:30 Inter-religious Studies class

**Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

**Psalms 19**

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a**

**Luke 4: 14-21**

### **January 31**

12:15 Lunch and Annual Meeting

**Jeremiah 1: 4-10**

**Psalms 71: 1-6**

**1 Corinthians 13: 1-13**

**Luke 4: 21-30**

***The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.***

## 128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing;  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

TEXT: Polish carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed, 1920; rev. 1921  
MUSIC: Polish folk melody; harm. Arthur E. Rusbridge, 1962

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY  
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7  
(this tune in a lower key, 410)

Check out the website

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

Come and see!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	6:00 Progress not Perfection AA 7:00 AI Anon 7:30 Borton Group AA Boy Scout Trp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class	7:30 am Bible & Bagels 12:30 AA meeting	5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 6:20 Voices in Bronze 7:30 Chancel Choir	9:30 AI Anon	9:00 CEIRS class (Fr. Smiga) beg. Jan 16
Merry Christmas and Happy and Blessed New Year to all!						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
See "Sundays in January"						9:00 New Leader training
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	7:30 FH Swim Club	7:00 am TOWER deadline	8:00 Men's Group 9:00 Session retreat
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		12:00 Iris Circle	10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullsheviks 7:00 Session meeting			7:30 Homeless Stand Down team begins 9:00 Exploring Membership class
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	5:00 PWR Meeting, St Andrew's, Olmstead Falls	12:00 Abundance Pantry				9:00 Justice and Mission retreat 7:00 pm Session party (Lentzes')
31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Meeting of the Congregation			7:00 pm Ministries meet			Stewardship retreat (time and place tba)

January 2016

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