

John C. Lentz, Pastor
Lois Annich, Interim Associate Pastor

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



The Tower

May 2017

Pastor's Book Club

I, like you, love to read. I, like you, have a list of books that I intend to get to but find it hard to crack the cover. I have had this desire to start a pastor's book club and read books that I want to read with others. So here we go.

It is easy to join! Everyone is welcome. Show up to discuss the book you want to read and discuss! Buy the book, read it and then on a Sunday to be announced, we will meet after church for lunch and discussion, or in the evening. You will have about a month to read the book. We can figure out the details as we go along!

Here are the first books that I am going to read and I invite you to join me.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, ***Between the World and Me***. In a letter to his son, Coates tries to express what it is like being an African-American man in America. A moving, sobering and (I think) hopeful work, ***Between the World and Me***, won the National Book Award in 2015.

Debby Irving, ***Waking Up White (and finding myself in the story of race)***. Many people have raved about this book. It concerns white privilege. Reading it after Coates' book will be particularly interesting as the subjects are the same but the style and perspectives come at the issue from different perspectives.

Reza Aslan, ***Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth***. Zealot was a #1 New York Times best seller that I read when it was first published in 2013.

After reading these three, we will assess where we are going. Other books (some oldies but goodies and worth a second or third read) that I would love to read and discuss with others include:

- Richard Rohr, ***Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*** (2011)
- Howard Thurman, ***Jesus and the Disinherited***, 1976
- Anne Lamott, ***Some Thoughts on Faith*** (1999)
- Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, ***Resident Aliens: Life in a Christian Colony*** (1989)
- James H. Cone, ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree*** (2013)
- Kathleen Norris Dakota: ***A Spiritual Geography*** (2001)
- N.T. Wright, Simply Christian: ***Why Christianity Makes Sense*** (2006)
- Huston Smith, ***The Soul of Christianity: Restoring the Great Tradition*** (2005)

I admit that I don't have any books written by African-American women so I will need to be educated! Perhaps, in time, we can mix it up with a short story, a novel, or even read poetry together.

So stay tuned!

Pastor John Lentz

As I write this, a robin is sitting on her nest above the double doors outside my office window. It's a heartwarming sight, a true harbinger of spring. I never tire of watching mother birds patiently hatch their fledglings. The circle of life is so strong and instinctive, as I watch I am filled with wonder.

It's spring—hallelujah! A season whose lush floral displays and warm breezes hint at the possibility of new life, of the opportunity to open our windows and welcome light and fresh air into spaces that have felt dark and stale. It's a chance to shed heavy layers of clothing and any heaviness we may be carrying in our hearts.

I'm aware that while this season is bringing me joy it also marks a bittersweet transition. My dear colleague Rachel McDonald will begin her new duties as pastor of South Haven United Church of Christ in Bedford on May 1. While I'm happy for Rachel and South Haven, I will miss our collaborations. Who would have thought that two women of such different backgrounds and ages, who were strangers to each other when we began our partnership, would work so well together and have so much fun? As we reviewed the goals we set for this time of transitional ministry we were delighted to discover that we'd accomplished a lot. The questions we raised with John and Session about FHC's history, identity, and mission ultimately led to the establishment of a Discernment Task Force who labored with "energy, imagination, intelligence, and love" to listen for God's call to Forest Hill Church.

And yet, this time of transition is not over. I will continue serving as interim associate minister at FHC for a number of months. Soon the co-pastor nominating committee will begin its work. The Session will continue to plan mindfully for the future in terms of mission, finances, technology, and building and grounds. This is a time of great excitement and curiosity as we wait to see what God is doing in and through Forest Hill Church. But it's also a time that is grounded in familiar rhythms. John and I will provide faithful worship leadership, pastoral care and counseling, and support to our various ministries. As I gaze at the mother bird outside my window I am reminded of the ways God calls forth new life and lovingly nurtures it until it is ready to take flight. The good news is that we can embrace the

excitement – and even disruption – of change because God is in the midst of it all, caring for our needs and calling us to greater things.

Yours in anticipation of what God is doing at Forest Hill Church,

Rev. Lois Annich
Interim Associate Pastor

Children's Ministry



As the program year comes to an end, I would like to say “thank you” to all of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who made the programs of Children’s Education run smoothly. Much gratitude to: Libby Dolan, Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck, Shannon & LaDon Headen, Leigh & Tim Henderson, Deanne Lentz, Sandy Ladebue, Sue Lafferty, Karen Loughridge, Jennifer Blakeney, Margie Ravas, Rachel & Charity McDonald, Danielle Cosgrove, Alisha Fiddler, Joanne Shaner, Liz Wollager, Carol Leslie, Rachel Martinez-Finn, Jessica Kelley-Moore, Lisa & Jed Koops, Jeremy Ryman & Diane Moyer, Christina Hidek, and Keith Logan. As you can see, it requires the help of many to care for and educate our kids.

The children of Forest Hill are ministry experts, thanks to the thoughtful contributions of: Melanie Alban (Stewardship), Laurie Logan & Sharon Shumaker (Education & Spiritual Formation), and Kay Dunlap (Trustees). It is my hope that we can have all of the ministries educate the kids next year! There will be opportunities for service, as well as education during the summer months. Please stay tuned for more details. Peace to all.

Children's Worship

Preschool and kindergarten

The children in this age group, ages 3-5, follow the play-based model of Young Children in Worship. After listening to a story, told in a sensorimotor style, the children are given space in which to respond (using art, story retelling, clay, etc.). In May, Children’s Worship will focus on the Golden Rule and the parable of the Sower. We will conclude the program year with a scavenger hunt.

Pathways Sunday School

Grades 1-5

In May, Pathways children will spend time wrapping up and reflecting upon the program year. The kids will gather for conversation and activities. Most importantly, they will have a chance to cultivate their relationships with one another.

May Dates to Know

May 7th Communion – KISS Sunday

Pathways children, grades 1-5, remain in worship to celebrate the Lord's Supper with their families. The Children's Worship class will start in the their classroom on the second floor of the CE wing. They will then be brought down to the sanctuary to join their families for communion. Children's bulletins will be provided for the kids to help them engage and connect to the liturgy.

May 14th Mother's Day - Start in Worship

Pathways children will begin in worship and then be dismissed to class.

May 21st Confirmation – Start in Worship

Pathways' children, will begin in worship and then be dismissed to class.

May 28th Memorial Day Weekend – KISS

All children will worship with their families. Nursery care will be available on the second floor of the CE wing.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable summer,

Kate Burleigh
Director of Children's Ministries



I hope to see everyone at the annual **MAY CABARET** which will take place on Sunday, May 7 beginning with a pizza supper at 6:15 pm and continuing with our family-friendly, intergenerational variety show at 7:00. Some highlights this year will include: the Descant Choir singing *Be Kind to Your Parents* and leading us in a rousing rendition of *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*; ballerina Devyn Etling, Voices in Bronze inviting you to waltz to *The Blue Danube*; an Identify-That-Song contest; the debut of the Heineman/Vandall/Reinhardt jazz trio, and much more.



The Descant Choir will have its annual party at Forest Hill Park (during regular rehearsal time) on Sunday, May 21. That will be the last rehearsal for them. The Sine Nomine Choir will lead the music on this same Sunday—it's Confirmation and Youth Sunday.

Mark your calendars for an A.W.E. (Alternative Worship Experience) on Sunday, June 4th: the Festival of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit will be invited into our midst, accompanied by the strains of musical improvisation coming from the violin of Reed Simon and the bass tones of Bryan Thomas.

As the choir season comes to an end, be sure to thank a singer or handbell ringer when you see one in the hallway or Fellowship Hall. These devoted people donate a lot of time to the church. I am so very grateful to work with all our musicians, from age 3 to 93!

Summer Choir will begin when we begin the summer schedule with 10:00 am worship on Sunday, June 11. All ages are welcome in the Summer Choir, even children and babes in arms. Give it a try—it's fun to experience worship from "the other side!"

Soli Deo Gloria

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

We celebrate and give thanks to these members and friends who generously contributed to the **Friends of Music** fund this year, allowing us to continue offering many special musicians and programs:

Betty Clark
William Clark
Patty Console
Kay Dunlap
Joan Ferguson
Elizabeth Fragasse
Chris and Dan Fuller
Don and Nancy Grube
Sue and Greg Hall
Kurt Haas
Dr. Lee Husni
Paul Jennings
Jane and Chuck Ishler
Bob and Pat Jeffreys

Scott and Sue Lafferty
Tom and Patty Liszkay
Ellen McChesney
Wendy Munyon
Melody and Linn Obery
Don and Donalene Poduska
Dick and Elspeth Peterjohn
Carolyn Smith
Joy Stang
Dorothy Ann Turick
Carolyn Vrtunski
Sue Yelanjian
Dene Young

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To all FHC:

It's that time again!!!
Spring Clean-up Day
Sat, May 6th 9am
trustees will provide nourishment for the body
the work and community will provide
nourishment for the soul
we will be washing windows, installing screens,
and cleaning up and mulching beds
Come Join Us!!!

Youth Events in May and beyond

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 5 6 – 8 pm Confirmation class	May 6 12:30 – 2 pm Brunch: Confirmation class and mentors	May 7 12 - 2p Discussion: Dating and Relationships
		May 14 Muffins for Mom fund-raiser
May 19 6 – 8 pm Confirmation class		May 21 Confirmation
		June 4 Fundraiser: Car wash, cotton candy, ice cream
		June 11 Senior recognition
WEDNESDAY, June 28 Middle High Mission Trip: Providence House		
FRIDAY, June 30 Trip to Cedar Point		JULY 23-29: Trip to Montreat NC

For more information about any of these listings
Please contact Shannon Headen, Director of Youth Ministries
216-496-6462 or Shannon@fhcpresb.org

“Whole Life” Stewardship

How do you define Stewardship?

It is common to think of Stewardship purely as a ministry to facilitate financial giving. But it is much more than that. Stewardship means “the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.” What is worth caring for and preserving?

As Christians, we are accountable to God for what we do and all that has been entrusted to us. We are not the owners, but have been *trusted* with resources and the care of everything. That includes the church and all of its programs that we support with our time, talents and treasure.

What else have we been entrusted with? We have a role in building God’s kingdom that is not limited to the halls of the church on Sunday mornings, but rather in *all* aspects of our lives and work. Indeed, Stewardship refers to how we care for our neighbors, our children, ourselves, and the earth.

The 2017 Forest Hill Church Stewardship Campaign theme, “Serve One Another,” from 1 Peter 4:10 (“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received”), was designed to present this “whole life” view of Stewardship. It truly is about our whole lives as Christians.

The Stewardship Ministry strives to open your hearts and minds to expand your view of Stewardship. We endeavor to remind everyone year-round about all the ways we are called to be stewards of God’s kingdom. Because when we talk about Stewardship only once a year in the fall, the unintended message we send is that Stewardship is only for the fall, and not the whole year; for Sunday mornings, not the whole week; and only about giving money to the church, rather than how we are caring for *all* the resources we have been entrusted with.

How are you being a good steward this week?

The Stewardship Ministry
Elders Ahren Stock, Melanie Alban
Leaders David Burleigh, Bill Ladebue, Leslie Pendleton, Peter Williams

Adult Education in May 9:30 in South Hall

Dr. Lentz's series on the sacraments, "Equipping the Saints for Ministry," will continue through May 7. On May 14, 21 and 28 Kathryn Eloff and Tom Zych will lead a class entitled "How Christians Disagree."

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### The Deacons' Corner

Every page of the first book in the Mindfulness Essentials Series by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, ***How To Sit***, is filled with words of wisdom that call the reader to look within for a place of peace, a sense of well-being in mind and body. Nhat Hanh writes: "When you make a soup, you have to add together all the right ingredients in harmony and let them simmer. Our breath is the broth that brings the different elements together. We bathe spirit and mind in our breath and they become integrated so they are one thing. We are whole."

In his book ***The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See***, Richard Rohr speaks about prayer and why the breath is at its core: "...When considered in this way, God is suddenly available and accessible as the very thing we all do constantly – breathe. And, isn't it wonderful that breath, wind, spirit and air are precisely nothing – and yet, everything."

Spring and summer offer us the opportunity to breathe in the new life around us. Being mindful of our breath, of the absolute miracle of life, we can feel a renewed energy that can fuel our souls and remind us that, no matter what else is going on, our connection to the heart, and to life, will sustain us.

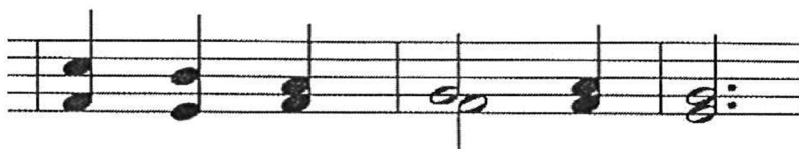
Kathy Carr & the Deacons

*Then the Lord God formed (man) from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and (man) became a living being.*

Genesis 2: 7



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God;  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,



fill me with life a - new,  
un - til my heart is pure,  
till I am whol - ly thine,  
so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love what thou dost love,  
un - til with thee I will one will,  
un - til this earth - ly part of me ;  
but live with thee the per - fect life



and do what thou wouldst do.  
to do and to en - dure.  
glows with thy fire di - vine.  
of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
SM

# **Four Conversations That Make Better Ministry Leaders**

Condensed from an article by Breeze's Aaron Buer on March 30, 2017

Ministry leaders at Forest Hill Church know that people count on them for clear, actionable answers to life's persistent challenges. As we struggle to provide compelling, truth-filled answers, it helps to engage in four regular, ongoing conversations.

## **1. Conversations with God**

The most important thing great ministry leaders need is a vibrant and growing relationship with God. Skill, expertise, and intelligence help, but regular and meaningful conversations with God are crucial. The answers to these questions are more important than our abilities:

- What is God doing?
- What is God calling us to do?
- What has God already revealed about this question?

If you want the right answers, pursue regular conversations with God.

## **2. Conversations with Dissidents**

Churches that think they know everything quickly stop learning and start sliding toward cultural irrelevance. To keep our practices (not our theology) from growing stale and outdated, we must listen to those who disagree. Dissidents have challenged churches to adopt new and important approaches to ministry over the past decades:

- Small group ministries
- Worship music that reflects the tastes of society
- Youth and children's ministry that partners with parents
- Social justice as a priority in the church
- Seeker friendly worship services
- Chairs instead of pews
- Topical sermons

Forest Hill hasn't adopted everything on this list but we've adopted quite a few. All because someone stood up and said, "I think God is calling us to change," and a wise leader listened. So if you know a dissident who is waving flags of change at Forest Hill, take them out to lunch. Hear them out. You might discover something important.

### **3. Conversations with Ourselves**

The questions we face aren't simple. They're deep and often involve a choice between multiple good ideas or even multiple bad ideas. If the shower's the only place we're thinking deeply, we need more thinking space or our answers will be shallow and simplistic. We need to:

- Schedule walks to simply think.
- Turn off the car radio and let our brains process and create.
- Sit for thirty minutes in a peaceful environment and mull over the tough questions.

Because what costs more? A few hours a week to think, or the time it takes to remedy a poor decision?

### **4. Conversations with Friends**

Even after conversations with God, dissidents and ourselves, our temperaments, prejudices and passions can still get in our way. Friends help us see what we're missing. Consider who you process tough questions with. Set up regular conversations with wise, trustworthy people. Simply asking "Does this sound right to you?" can reveal your blind spots

### **Taking Action**

Our ability to provide wise answers depends on ongoing conversations with God, dissidents, ourselves, and friends. Forest Hill Church's mission is too important for us to ignore this reality and try to rely on our own skills, expertise and intelligence. Pursue these conversations.

Peg Weissbrod

## Dorothy Height Honored



Recently the U.S. Postal Service honored Dorothy Height with a forever stamp in their heritage series. So, who was she? The short answer is she was a civil rights activist and a women's rights activist. Examination of her life reveals the effectiveness of her life work.

"She was a mover and a shaker. She didn't take no for an answer. She was always on point. She was insistent and persistent," Rep. Carl Lewis said. "She stood for the timeless values that make this country great. Equality,

justice and liberty."

Dorothy I. Height was born in 1912. Her father was a building contractor and her mother a nurse. She applied to Barnard College after graduating from high school. She was denied admittance, receiving the response that they already had 2 black students. She was admitted and graduated from New York University with bachelor's and master's degrees in education psychology in 1933.

In 1938, she was one of ten young people chosen by Eleanor Roosevelt to plan a world youth conference. Through this association, she met Mary McLeod Bethune and became involved in the National Council of Negro Women. She was instrumental in improving the lives of Black domestics and in attracting large grants for major projects.

Her work for the YWCA earned her national office in the organization and involved the organization in civil rights struggle.

In 1986, she founded the Annual Family Reunion movement, convinced that the negative images of black family life were a significant problem. She said "We are not a problem people; we are a people with problems. We have historic strengths; we have survived because of family."

Dorothy was a leader in the civil rights movement, pushing for women's rights. In 1963, working with Dr. Martin Luther King, she helped organize the March on Washington. She co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus. She stood on the platform with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as he made his "I have a dream" speech.

In 1994 President Clinton presented her with the Medal of Freedom. Ten years later she was awarded Congressional Gold Medal.

President Obama dubbed her “the godmother of civil rights.” Although she never married or had children, she indeed led the way for many women through many a rough road as a mother would.

She served for four decades as Sigma Delta Theta Sorority president. Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, said it is no surprise that Height's legacy continues to inspire.

"She was on the front lines fighting for the equality of all people for more than half a century," Walker said in a statement to NBCBLK. "It is because of her impenetrable resolve to stand for the civil and human rights of women, families, and children that we are afforded the freedoms enjoyed today."

Dorothy Irene Height died April 10, 2010.

Dorothy Herd

Sources:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/dorothy-height-honored-forever-stamp-n715681>

Dorothy Height's biography [www.biography.com/people/dorothy-height-40743](http://www.biography.com/people/dorothy-height-40743)

Dorothy Height-Wikipedia.org

## Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) - Update

As many of you know, Greater Cleveland Congregations is a faith-based community organization that seeks to address issues of social justice by organizing people across lines of race, class, religion, and geography to promote public, private and civic sector actions which strengthen and improve the quality of life of our neighborhoods. GCC works to be a catalyst for systemic change by connecting our congregations and community groups to build our power to bring about social justice.

GCC continues our current #NOTALLIN campaign for social justice in the Q Arena Transformation deal. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Cuyahoga County Council voted 8–3 to approve the financing deal to issue \$140 million in County bonds for the Q renovation. (The total cost for financing this deal is estimated to be \$282 million of which the Cavs have committed to \$122 million.) GCC has since taken the struggle directly to the Cleveland City Council to raise our collective voices to say that the deal needs to be about more than providing enhancements to a downtown sports facility that primarily benefits those with financial means. Thanks to GCC's efforts, there are 6 Council members who are standing against the City's \$88 million portion of the Q financing deal unless it truly works to benefit Cleveland's neighborhoods.

So where does GCC stand in this ongoing fight for fairness and justice? GCC does not like many aspects of the deal which could have detrimental impacts to the county and city governments and residents. Despite these reservations, and the fact that GCC continues to seek a more equitable funding arrangement, we support our Cavs and are not opposing the renovations planned for the Q. The primary concern GCC has had from the beginning is that the Q renovation deal should be a “both - and” deal: not just downtown development **but also** support for our distressed neighborhoods and the citizens who live there. Thus, GCC asks that the Q renovation deal include a Community Equity Fund that also insures funding for mental health crisis centers, employment programs and capital improvement needs of Cleveland neighborhoods. As GCC Co-Chair Pastor Richard Gibson has stated, “This fight is not about the money; it is about the neighborhoods and the people of Cleveland.” It is this request for including a Community Equity Fund that GCC continues to pursue.



As of this writing, legislation for the City to commit \$88 million has not yet passed City Council. We will continue to provide the congregation updates about GCC's #NOTALLIN campaign and FHC's part in making it a success, which may include gathering petition signatures of Cleveland residents to place a referendum regarding the Q financing deal and community benefits on the ballot.

Scott Lafferty



## Green Recycling

We know to recycle is to honor green-ness. Proper shepherding of all the earth's resources is a worthy faithful endeavor. Recycling is a good practice for Earth Care.

For several years we were fortunate to have an electronic-plus-metal collection at the church on a Saturday morning. The company that provided this service now only does commercial accounts. The economic values of electronics and the metals being recycled are much less than what they used to be.

I encourage all who have electronics and unusual metal items ready for disposal to contact the service departments of your local municipalities. For more information and links to communities in Cuyahoga County, go to [http://cuyahogarecycles.org/computer\\_recycling](http://cuyahogarecycles.org/computer_recycling)

Each city's website may also have a section devoted to recycling. Learn when and where you can go to deposit these recyclable materials—steel, aluminum and copper articles (other than beverage cans, which get picked up curbside). And continue to be diligent about recycling cans, glass and paper at home and at work!

Happy Recycling!

Dave Neff and the Green Team

## **All-In at Forest Hill Church**

Happy Easter! We had a glorious celebration on a beautiful Easter Sunday. Hope you were inspired. Here are several newsy items that appear as we turn the calendar page.

### **Bye-bye Rachel**

Rachel McDonald is (as of May 1) the Pastor of South Haven UCC in Bedford. What a gift she was to us! There is still time for you to write a thanksgiving check in her honor.

### **The NOT ALL IN CAMPAIGN - The Q Arena and GCC**

My hope is that you know what I am talking about! If not, I and the members of the Forest Hill Church GCC team have not done a very good job in keeping you up to date. In a nutshell....

The Q Arena ownership team wants to add a new glass front to the arena. They say it will keep the arena competitive with venues in Pittsburgh and Columbus. The Cavs are committed to staying in Cleveland for another 20 years. The new construction will bring jobs to construction workers and continue to bring people to the downtown area for games and concerts. The total cost is projected to be \$285 million. The County is raising bonds, the city taking money from a number of accounts, and Dan Gilbert and the Cavs are contributing as well.

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), of which Forest Hill Church is a leading member and I am on the Strategy Team, has a different vision for the Q and the city.

We are All In for the Cavs and hope they repeat as champions. BUT we believe that this proposed Q deal is flawed and doesn't take into account the needs of Cleveland's neighborhoods. Gun violence is spiking, no jobs are to be found, streets and sidewalks are in disrepair. If our community leaders can find money to fix the Q, they can find money to fix our streets. Furthermore, GCC is calling for a Community Equity Fund (CEF) as part of a re-negotiated deal. GCC hopes that money will be found to build Mental Health treatment centers on the east and west sides of the city to serve

those in need. You can get more information on the GCC website or by talking to Jennifer Blakeney, Diana Woodbridge and Scott Lafferty.

Go CAVS! but our citizens and our city have bigger needs than a glass front atrium on the Q.

### **Play Ball**

The Forest Hill Church softball team is about to begin another campaign. They play almost every Sunday in Forest Hill Park. Their schedule is in the bulletin. The “TREES” (aka Fighting Scots) are going for their 10<sup>th</sup> championship....a ring for every finger! Go TEAM!

Pastor John Lentz

### **Thoughts about Applause during Worship**

Who can resist a hearty round of applause when the children sing an inspiring and delightful song during worship? It seems to be a natural response to show our appreciation, love and affirmation.

However, there are times when a thoughtful and gentle anthem, a sermon or an announcement might better be recognized with some quiet, reaffirming words such as *Hallelujah*, *Amen*, or *Thank You*. Or perhaps one's response could be just placing a hand on one's heart. There are times when the silence immediately after a musical offering or sermon is downright spiritual; the moment begs for that special silent “glow”—an intake of rejuvenating breath.

Just something to think about . . .

Anne Wilson

# **Abundance Food Pantry at Forest Hill Church: 2016 Report to Justice and Mission**

1. The Goals of the Pantry Program are to
  - Provide food and other groceries to our neighbors in Hough, Glenville, Collinwood, East Cleveland, Cleveland Hts, University Hts, South Euclid, and Buckeye/Shaker Square.
  - Promote fresh vegetables and healthy foods.
  - Get to know our neighbors and create a welcoming experience at the pantry.
  - Encourage involvement by our pantry guests in the work that needs to be done.
  - Be very efficient with the funds that we are given.
  - Be respectful of the space and equipment that is being made available to us at the church.
2. Review of 2016 Year End Results => 200,000 Meals Provided and Still Growing
  - 500 Household Visits per month
  - 42 Pounds of Groceries averaged for each visit with over 40% being Fresh Produce
  - 4 to 8 Vehicles haul 5,000-9,000 pounds of groceries each week from Food Bank to FHC
  - Average Cost per Meal is now down to 4 cents.
  - 135+15 Hot Meals for guests + hosts each month
  - 1,500 Christmas toys, games, puzzles, books, wrapping paper, decorations, etc.
  - 16 Guest Volunteers:
3. Improving Hospitality
  - Provide a comfortable waiting room one hour before we open for business
  - Serve beverages and share magazines to read and take home
  - Offer a book or two for the guests to take home
  - Have weekly Nutrition Talks on Eating Healthy and Stretching Food Dollars
  - Provide free copies of "Good and Cheap - Eat Well on \$4 per Day"
  - Enable holiday giving through our Christmas gift shop

#### 4. Pantry & Meals Funding Sources for 2016

|            |                                                                   |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$2,600    | Harvest for Hunger Grant                                          |
| 2,400      | United Way Grant                                                  |
| 2,950      | Individual and Group Donations                                    |
| 2,400      | Justice & Mission Grant                                           |
| 800        | J&M Freezer                                                       |
| <u>650</u> | Hunger Collections (25%), Concert Collection,<br>Scottish Pennies |
| 11,800     |                                                                   |

#### 5. Expenses for 2016

|            |                                               |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| \$2,600    | Harvest for Hunger Credits at Food Bank       |
| 2,400      | United Way Credits at Food Bank               |
| 2,950      | Additional Pantry Food Purchases at Food Bank |
| 1,600      | Hot Meals Food and Materials                  |
| 650        | Freezer for Pantry                            |
| 550        | Plastic bags, food gloves, name tags          |
| <u>450</u> | Christmas gift items                          |
| 11,200     |                                               |

#### 6. Challenges and Concerns for the Coming Year

- Calvary Lutheran Pantry in East Cleveland recently closed
- Need for groceries continues to grow, Can we keep up?
- Might we lose our United Way grant?
- Will the Food Bank lose parts of USDA, OFP, or other funding?
- Could Food Stamps be cut again?

#### 7. The Pantry History started many years ago with Lynda Bernays and a few cans placed in the shopping cart. Here are some improvements that have been made since that time.

In 2009 Laura Steiner pulled together a group, later led by Paul Jennings, and launched the Abundance Acres Garden to provide more fresh produce to the Pantry.

In 2010 Barb Cloud and Nancy Burcham arranged to pick up weekly donations of baked goods from Heinen's and vegetables from Zagara's.

- In 2012 In October, Beth Zych, Grace Uhle, and others decided to organize a monthly hot meal after the youth group conducted their first pantry breakfast.
- In 2013 A Micah grant by Lorraine Ranchod allowed us to begin buying food from sources like Aldi's, Costco, and Marc's. Paul and Barb Cloud started to organize volunteers to handle the food distribution. The Pantry became a member agency with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in May, and we began buying much larger amounts of food. This has enabled us to reduce our average cost of food even further. We are now at approximately 4 cents per meal.
- In 2014 The Pantry received a grant from United Way, and was listed on their 211 Help Line.  
A number of steps were taken to reduce the costs and volunteer hours required. We discontinued the garden, we discontinued the soup group, and we reduced from two days per week to only one. This saved custodian cost as well as volunteer hours.
- In 2015 The United Way grant was renewed at the beginning of the year. A grant was also obtained from Harvest for Hunger. Mari Keating started bringing bread from On the Rise and bagels from Bialy's.
- In 2016 We started picking up grocery donations from Save-a-Lot each week. Kathy Hanna-Stauffer started weekly nutrition discussion groups with tasting samples. We began handing out free copies of the book ***Good and Cheap – How to Eat Well on \$4 per Day***. We began buying hygiene items which cannot be purchased with food stamps. We started a Christmas gift shop distributing toys, games, puzzles, books, wrapping paper, decorations, etc.
- In 2017 Kim Hill started gathering books to distribute each week. She arranged to have the Cleveland Heights Book Mobile in our parking lot on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month.

Paul Jennings, Pantry Boss

## **Pacesetters – May Service Event**

On Saturday, May 20 from 9 am to 12 noon, the Pacesetters (and anyone else who would like to join them) will meet to assist with cleanup and spring planting and to provide brunch for the guests of Transplant House of Cleveland (THoC). Transplant House, 2007 E. 115<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of Mayfield Road in University Circle, is a non-profit organization providing temporary, affordable housing in a home-like environment for organ transplant patients and their families while they stay in Cleveland for medical care.

Projects will include cleaning the rear porches and stairs, prepping and planting a raised garden bed and planting annuals, cleaning outdoor tables and chairs, and pruning a hedge behind the main apartment building. Should the weather not cooperate, we will take on inside tasks.

We will work from 9:00 to 11:00 am and then share brunch with the guests of THoC. So, in addition to volunteers for the cleanup and planting projects, we need volunteers to join the Meal Team – please contact Sue Lafferty (salaff@sbcglobal.net or 440-669-4885) if you are interested. For the work project team please contact either Scott Lafferty (swlaff@sbcglobal.net or 440-429-2937) or Gary Lustic (galustic@gmail.com).

### **Items to Bring for Work Projects:**

- 1 Nozzle and at least 25' hose (plus brush attachment for hose for porch cleaning)
- Hand scrub bristle brush (2)
- Hand clippers for trimming scrub brush (not electric)
- (2) Large outdoor pots - (18-20") for planters near front entrances
- Styrofoam packing peanuts for the pots

If anyone is interested in supporting the service project but cannot volunteer on May 20<sup>th</sup>, monetary donations to help purchase garden supplies, plants, topsoil, etc. will be welcome. More details will follow closer to May 20.

Scott Lafferty

# News of Our Church Family

## Births

**Nolan James Baldwin**, son of Lane and Nathan Baldwin, was born April 2, 2017.

## Baptisms

**Ethan Everett Swain**, son of Vikki Nowak and Reginald Trent Swain, was baptized on April 15. Todd Webster was the attending Elder.

## Directory: Corrections and updates

**Jeanette Nemcek**: correct phone number is 216-381-6731

**Dele, Damos, Demo and Reni Solaru**

3591 Hamlet Place, Chevy Chase MD 20815

**Sarah and JT Tan** and family

4664 S. Hills Dr., Cleveland 44109

## Care Group

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

Members of the Jordan CARE Group are:

John Dugard, Deacon leader

Debbie Adrine

Betsy & Joe Andrews

Mike & Danielle Cosgrove

Dale Dannefer

Ralph & Kathy Dise

John & Sheryl Dugard

Ron & Marcia Grant

Roger, Consuelo & Grant Heineman

Dorothy Herd

Carl Jenks

Krystal LaFontaine & Krystal Taft

Mary McMillan

Neil & Kathy Molyneaux

Jon Newton

Linda Rainey

John & Kara Schellenberg

Jim & Pat Seeders

Dalma Takacs

Grace Uhle

Tori Weisberg & family

Becky & Brian West & family

Marilyn Wilk

Diana Woodbridge



## **Volunteer Hours in April**

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, Joie Hill and Carol Sims, Pat Jenkins, and Betty Clark who is part of the TOWER assembly team –worked a total of 85½ hours in March. Thank you all!

Special thanks to Peg Weissbrod for covering the office and to the volunteers who put in extra hours when Lynda was away.

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

Marge Drollinger, Emma Jane Gibbs, Al and Iris Gilbert, Ron Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, George Sentell, Margie Stauffer, Elaine Tapié, Lorian Thomas, and Pat Weissbrod

## **Social Groups and Circles**

### **The Group (60s – 70s) Planning Dinner**

Please come for a lasagna dinner at the Khoury's, during which we will plan next year's activities. Fresh ideas and new friends are always welcome. Bring a salad, rolls, or dessert to share, as well as brochures or ideas for events. Help us decide where The Group will go in the coming months – some favorite past activities have included guided tours through the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cain Park events, outdoor summer theater, evenings at Blossom, baseball games, wine country tours, movies, dinners, sponsoring Boulevard school families at Christmas, and the annual Super Bowl Party.

Contact Zivile for a food assignment ([440-461-8235](tel:440-461-8235) or [Zivile@gmail.com](mailto:Zivile@gmail.com)). (If you have an idea for an event but can't come to the dinner, let Zivile know – all ideas are welcome.)

**Saturday, May 13, 6:30 PM.**

**Dinner at Allan & Zivile Khoury's, 930 Worton Park Drive, Mayfield Village**

**Pacesetters (40s – 60s): May 20, Work Day at The Transplant House of Cleveland**

See p. 23 for details from Scott Lafferty

**Iris Circle** (all women of the church): **May and June meetings**

**On May 16** Iris Circle will meet in Bodwell Hall at 11:30 am (*note early start time*) for a potluck lunch and a Bible study led by Rev. Lois Annich. Lois will lead us in thinking about Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, herself an important figure in the history of Israel. RSVP to Elspeth Peterjohn ([elspethpj@earthlink.net](mailto:elspethpj@earthlink.net) or 216-991-0424)

**On June 20** we will meet at Nancy Burcham's home (301 Rosebury Court, Mayfield Hts) for a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon and to plan our 2017-2018 calendar. We need good food and good ideas for a great program year. RSVP to Nancy ([440-446-0832](tel:440-446-0832) or [burcham@roadrunner.com](mailto:burcham@roadrunner.com)).

**May 13: Bible Study and potluck in Bodwell Hall, 11:30 am**

**June 20: Planning Lunch at Nancy Burcham's, 12:00 pm**

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

**July 22-24**

### **Trip to Washington DC**

To the Smithsonian National Museum of  
African American History and Culture

Registration is due May 15.

See p. 28-29

### **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY**

May 6, 9-12 pm

Come and help!

***TOWER*** deadlines: **7 am** on May 12,  
June 16, August 18

The summer  
schedule begins  
June 11

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

Emails for the staff are as follows:

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

Custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257

**July 22-24<sup>th</sup>**

**Join us on a trip to Washington DC!**

The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opened last year and we have tickets for July 23. We will leave on Saturday, July 22 and return on Monday, July 24.

The cost per person is \$376.00. This includes bus fare, tickets to the museum, hotel for 2 nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria VA (double occupancy; adjustments will be made for single or more than 2 people per room), and most meals (2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and 1 lunch).

**NOTE: If the bus is not full, the price will increase to \$400  
The additional cost will be collected after reservations are received**

To make a reservation:

- Fill out the form that follows (copies are available in the foyers and on line: <https://fhc.breezechms.com/form/db5775>)
- make your checks payable to Forest Hill Church (\$100 deposit per person, or full payment)
- put *Washington Trip* on the memo line
- mail or otherwise deliver to the church office.

We have ordered several children's tickets (17 and under) – now would be a great time to take the kids or grandchildren.

A tour of Frederick Douglas' home is included in the trip.

If you have any questions, contact Barb Cloud (216-321-9112 or [faithleader52@yahoo.com](mailto:faithleader52@yahoo.com)).

More information about the museum is available at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

**RESERVATIONS with full payment or deposit  
ARE DUE MAY 15**

**FULL PAYMENT IS DUE JUNE 1**

## Washington trip reservation form: July 22-24, 2017

Name of person making reservations

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional people (if any) included in this reservation (age if under 17): \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate information

☐ All people on this form will share a room

☐ I will room with \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I don't have a roommate. If there is another person who needs a roommate, please put me in touch with that person.

☐ I'd like a single room (up to \$150 additional cost).

Number of reservations @ \$376 per person: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed (\$100/person or full payment): \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that the trip may be cancelled if not enough reservations are received by May 15. I also agree to pay the additional cost of \$25/person if the bus is not completely filled.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of person responsible for reservation(s) on this form.

This page, with payment, confirms your reservation(s).

*Advice from the museum's website:*

Before you pack your bags, grab your comfortable walking shoes, and make a trip to the National Mall to visit the museum, there are a few things you need to know to make your experience even more enjoyable.

1. Wear comfortable shoes during your visit.
2. Expect to pass through a security screening. Avoid bringing large bags to get through security screens faster. **Prohibited items include tripods, monopods, selfie sticks, weapons of any kind, knives of any kind, pets, food or drink, scissors, aerosol cans, tools, smoking, placards, signs or banners.**
3. Be aware of counterfeit passes. Only passes obtained directly through the Museum's provider, Etix, will be honored. Timed Passes may only be used once.
4. Wheelchairs are limited and distributed on a first come first served basis. Please plan to bring your own if possible. The handicap accessible entrance to the Museum is located on the Constitution Ave side of the building.
5. Download the NMAAHC Mobile app as a complement to your onsite Museum experience.
6. We have keepsakes and gifts available at our Museum Shop and a variety of food choices at our Sweet Home Café. Expect long lines at both.

## Sundays in May

**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)  
**11:15** Pathways to the Promise Land: May 14, 21  
 (gr. 1-5)  
**12:15** Fellowship Hour  
**4:00** Labre Project (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>)

|                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 7 4 Easter</b><br>11:00 Worship: Communion<br>12:15 Visitors' Q&A<br>12:00 Youth: dating & relationships<br>6:15 May Cabaret (show begins at 7)             | <b>Acts 2: 42-47</b><br><b>Psalm 23</b><br><b>1 Peter 2: 19-35</b><br><b>John 10: 1-10</b>                      |
| <b>May 14 5 Easter Mother's Day</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>Acts 7:55 – 60</b><br><b>Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16</b><br><b>1 Peter 2: 2-10</b><br><b>John 14: 1-14</b>          |
| <b>May 21 6 Easter</b><br>8:30 Nominating Committee<br>11:00 Worship: Confirmation<br>12:15 Blood Pressure check<br>2:00 Recital:<br>Students of Ann Marie Falcone | <b>Acts 17: 22-31</b><br><b>Psalm 66: 8-20</b><br><b>1 Peter 3: 13-22</b><br><b>John 14: 15-21</b>              |
| <b>May 28 7 Easter</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>Acts 1: 6-14</b><br><b>Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35</b><br><b>1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 5-11</b><br><b>John 17: 1-11</b> |

*The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.*

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| Sunday                                                          | Monday                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                             | Friday                                                   | Saturday                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted</b> | 6:00 Progress not Perfection AA<br>7:00 AI Anon<br>7:30 Borton Group AA<br>Boy Scout Trip #403 | 1:00 Abundance<br>Pantry<br>5:00 Fitness Fusion<br>exercise class | 7:30 am Bible & Bagels<br>12:30 AA meeting                                                                 | 5:00 Fitness Fusion<br>exercise class<br>6:20 Voices in Bronze<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 9:30 AI Anon                                             |                                                                |
| See "Sundays in May"                                            | 1                                                                                              | 2                                                                 | 3                                                                                                          | 4                                                                                    | 5                                                        | 6                                                              |
| 7<br>6:15 May<br>Cabaret                                        | 8                                                                                              | 9                                                                 | 10                                                                                                         | 11                                                                                   | 12<br>7:00 am TOWER<br>deadline                          | 13<br>9:00 Leadership<br>Retreat<br>6:30 The Group             |
| 14<br><b>Mother's Day</b>                                       | 15                                                                                             | 16<br>11:30 Iris Circle                                           | 17<br>10:00 TOWER collators<br>12:00 Bullshevicks<br>1:00 Hilltop Garden<br>Club<br>7:00 Trans Family East | 18                                                                                   | 19                                                       | 20<br>8:00 Men's Group<br>900 Pacesetters:<br>Work Day at THoC |
| 21                                                              | 22                                                                                             | 23<br>12:00 Abundance<br>Pantry Lunch                             | 24                                                                                                         | 25                                                                                   | 26<br>3:00 Excell Graduation                             | 27<br>9:00 FHHO "Trunk"<br>sale                                |
| 28                                                              | 29<br><b>Memorial Day</b>                                                                      | 30                                                                | 31                                                                                                         | JUNE 1                                                                               | 2<br>6:30 Boy Scout<br>Troop 403:<br>Strawberry Festival | 3<br>6:00 Art Fair                                             |

May 2017