

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

January 2018

Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! At the turning of the calendar page I remember the words of Dag Hammarskjold, (who was a Swedish diplomat and Secretary General of the United Nations from 1953-1961). One New Year's Eve he wrote in his journal:

**'For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!'**

That is how I feel as I review 2017 and look forward to 2018. WOW! what a year we have had as a nation and as a church. I will leave politics aside other than to say we are all clearly aware of the change in the political atmosphere.

At Forest Hill Church we made some important decisions in 2017. We called a Co-Pastor Nominating Committee and we became a Sanctuary Church. Both decisions caused tension as we discerned God's call for us. But we have borne the good fruits of our actions. Sharon Shumaker, Charity Stock, Jeff Smith, Tom Zych and so many others have taken the lead in welcoming and supporting Leonor!

As I think about these two choices that were made I am filled with gratitude for the support as well as the criticism. We showed once again how a church works faithfully through times of agreement and disagreement!

Thank you to Lois Annich, my colleague and friend. She has been a gift to us for the past 2 years. Thank you to Anne Wilson. I have run out of words to express my appreciation. Thank you to Shannon, Kate, Lynda, Becky, Ann, and Peg.

Thank you for continuing to worship, work, give, study, pray, and be a welcoming community. Everywhere I go people are talking about Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian. I know “pride goeth before the fall” but nevertheless I am proud of Forest Hill Church and its mission!

Now I turn to the year ahead of us. Financially we are doing well. We increased pledging over last year, which is great news. I am hopeful that we will attain our aspirational pledge goal of \$777,300.

2018 will be the year of the new Co-Pastor. I cannot wait to welcome her and have her be a part of the forward looking and moving congregation. Our best years are ahead of us on the corner of Monticello and Lee as we grow in the call to be a progressive, welcoming, curious, spiritual, worshiping, inclusive, diverse, socially active, prayerful and thoughtful bunch of Bible Nerds and Jesus followers who enjoy each other’s company and seek to change the world.

2018 will be the year that Leonor leaves us and goes home to her family in Akron.

God bless us all!

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





Happy Twelve Days of Christmas! As a clergy couple Rich and I enjoy the full celebration of Jesus' birth up through Epiphany. The joke has always been that we've been so late putting up our tree that we need to keep the party going into January so we can get our money's worth, but, truth be told, marking the Twelve Days of Christmas has become a deep and meaningful practice. If you do some research you will learn about a variety of interesting saints whose feast days are honored during that period. More importantly, it becomes a time to slow down and savor the joy and wonder of The Incarnation. While the rest of the world is madly dashing on to the next thing on the "To Do" list, we are trying to take deep breaths and think about what a difference Christ's birth means for us and all creation. This poem by Howard Thurman captures the understanding that Christmas is not limited to December 25<sup>th</sup>:

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

May your celebration be ongoing! May you thrill to contemplate The Incarnation! And, as we acknowledge Christ as the Light of the World, may your Epiphany, and all your days, be filled with the light of Christ!

Rev. Lois Annich  
Interim Associate Pastor

## Music Notes



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

The Heights High Barbershoppers (both the women and the men) are travelling to compete in the National Barbershop Singing Competition in Los Angeles on January 18. Several of our FHC youth sing in these groups (Grant Heineman, Garrett Vandall, Chip Vandall, Rowan Trammell) and they have asked to give a fund-raising concert at FHC sometime in January (date to be determined). If you've ever heard them, you know they are terrific and it's great fun to listen to them! I'll let you know the date when it is decided, and I hope you will support these talented young singers.

In the New Year, the choirs will be preparing music for Black History Month, a Compline service during Lent, a Bach Sunday and more! Details will be forthcoming when dates are finalized. 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

216-870-2729

[annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org)

## Stewardship Update

*“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8*

It is a new year and the community of Forest Hill Church is continuing its work of changing lives. The work is made possible by your involvement and financial commitment to the mission of the church.

As we move forward into 2018, the Ministry of Stewardship would like to express its gratitude to the many people who contributed to the “Every Blessing in Abundance” campaign.

- Narrative Budget: Session ministries for content input, in-house photographers whose pictures sharpened our story;
- Notes in campaign packets: Members whose personal notes were a campaign highlight;
- Minute for Mission: Members who shared their inspirational stories during worship;
- Cornucopia Luncheon: Everyone who cooked, decorated, served, set up and cleaned up;
- Staff: You went above and beyond to support our efforts.

Most of all, we want to thank all of you, members and friends of Forest Hill Church, for sharing your thoughts on blessings in abundance and for your ongoing commitment to the church’s programs and mission projects.

While the official campaign has ended, it is not too late renew your pledge or to pledge for the first time. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the ministry listed below.

### The Ministry of Stewardship

Elders: Ahren Stock, Melanie Alban

Elected Leaders: Dave Burleigh, Bill Ladebue, Leslie Pendleton, Peter Williams

## Deacons' Corner

As the celebration of Christmas and the month of December draw to a close, it will soon be a time to resume our usual routines. Life will have returned to its normal pace after the holidays, and many of us will be working hard on New Year's resolutions.

January is the month of New Beginnings, and starting anew is a true life offering. The intention to be healthy in mind, body and spirit is shared by many of us. Knowing that we are not alone in striving toward our goals helps us to see each day of the new year as a 'beginning.'

In his book ***Mere Christianity***, C.S. Lewis offers us a way to start each of our days. His words of wisdom remind us of God's love and peace that are within that deepest part of ourselves ...

He writes:

*...That is why the real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day. Standing back from all your natural fussings and frettings; coming in out of the wind.*

May Grace and Blessings be in your path in the new year.

Kathy Carr  
On behalf of the Deacons

## **Fair Trade and Cottage Industry Bazaar**

Thank you, Forest Hill Church, for your participation in this year's Bazaar. Your purchases significantly benefit each artisan, whether from Kenya or from Cleveland Heights. The vendors are all volunteers and appreciate your interest and purchases. Ruth Tracey of Canaan Fair Trade reported a significant increase in sales even above last year's excellent sales. If you have any thoughts on ways to make this event better – whether you know of additional vendors or can help spread the word, please contact Jennifer Blakeney (jablakeney.13@gmail.com).

**You are invited to an Epiphany Party  
Sunday, January 7, 3 – 10 pm  
At the home of Carolyn Smith  
1867 Cumberland Rd, CH  
216-509-3928**

Since 2004, the Smith family has celebrated the tradition of hosting an Epiphany Party for family and friends. We ask that you bring a cash donation to be donated to Abundance Pantry, as they are able to purchase supplies from the Cleveland Foodbank at a very low cost. We also ask that you bring a favorite potluck dish to share. We'll provide coffee, punch and eggnog (high- and low-test) as well as a variety of delicious goodies.

Bring voices and instruments to join the annual song circle/ acoustic jam. Bring good holiday wishes and prayers for peace in this troubled world. Bring yourselves!



# Greater Cleveland Congregations

GCC has many opportunities to get involved to work towards our mission of building power for social justice in Greater Cleveland. Maximal involvement at this time is vital as we make key decisions about GCC's direction for the next 18 months. See below for the dates and locations.

- A **training opportunity** is scheduled to increase your understanding of the organizing methods of GCC and enhance your effectiveness in taking an active role.
- **The Education Team** has developed an exciting new approach to build relationships with CMSD parents and to ensure that schools are better meeting the needs of students. The jobs development issue will possibly become part of the education team as we address the needs of parents and youth. If you would like to partner in the schools, including tutoring and trauma support, contact FHC Core Team member Gretchen Reynolds ([grr4325@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grr4325@sbcglobal.net); [440-751-5560](tel:440-751-5560)) to learn more.
- The **Criminal Justice and Gun Violence Teams** are re-establishing needs, relationships and approaches while continuing to focus on the creation of mental health crisis centers and gun safety.
- The **Delegate Assemblies** are open to all.
- If you'd like to join the FHC Core Team, contact Jennifer Blakeney ([jblakeney.13@gmail.com](mailto:jblakeney.13@gmail.com)).

Come participate where you are called!

## Dates and Locations

**Gun Violence Team Meeting** *Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm*  
*Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (23737 Fairmount Blvd, Beachwood)*

**Criminal Justice Team Meeting** *Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm*  
*Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland)*

**FHC Core Team Meeting** *Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Diana Woodbridge's. Contact Jennifer ([jblakeney.13@gmail.com](mailto:jblakeney.13@gmail.com)) for information*



**Delegate Assembly** *Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm*  
*Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, lower auditorium*  
*(8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland)*

**Education Team Meeting** *Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm*  
*Fairhill Partners Building (12200 Fairhill Rd, Cleveland)*

**GCC University** *Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 3-7, 5<sup>th</sup> 9-5 and 6<sup>th</sup> 9-4 at FHC.*  
*Participation for the entire training is required. More information is found below.*

### **More about GCC University...**

GCC University, very conveniently located for us this time, is essential to understand how and why GCC works to create a more just Greater Cleveland community for all its citizens. It begins on a Sunday afternoon, but also involves two weekdays. Recognizing that this may make it difficult for working people to attend, GCC will be also offering “mini” trainings (building relationships, understanding power, etc.) that will cover much of the essential components of GCC University, but be spread over time and in the evenings. Watch for dates! But, if you can attend the full version of GCC U, please do that — it is particularly impactful to experience the training as a whole. Contact the GCC office if you are interested or have questions (216-769-8732 or [info@greaterclevelandcongregations.org](mailto:info@greaterclevelandcongregations.org)).

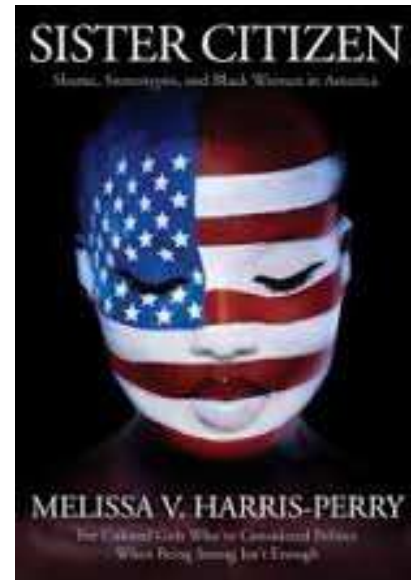
Jennifer Blakeney and Diana Woodbridge

*Early last year the Black History Educational Committee searched for relevant subjects for our 2018 celebration of Black History Month. We settled on the theme "Black Women of Excellence, I too am America." In America, Black women have walked a path filled with pitfalls. The book **Sister Citizen** was chosen as the church read because it addresses these pitfalls eloquently and frankly and was written by a Black woman of excellence.*

*We will be unpacking the contents of the book and the issues it raises throughout the year.*

## **Book Report: Sister Citizen**

***Sister Citizen***, a book by Melissa V. Harris-Perry, explores the nature and origins of forces which have in great part shaped the self-perceptions and lives of African American women, as well as perceptions about them by both white and African American people in the larger society. While some might say that her analysis is not thorough wide enough, ordinary African American women have commented in reviews: "I felt it in my being" "...I had these feelings, felt these betrayals" "It broke my heart."



or

in

In her first chapter, Harris-Perry speaks of a study which people are placed in a room with images that are somewhat misaligned, tilted from normal. Some people placed in this tilted environment bend and tilt to fit the images, while others manage to stand upright. She states that it is hard to stand straight in a crooked room and equates that with the experience of African American women.

This book explores the shame foisted on African American women through the Myths of Mammy (nurturing, asexual and submissive woman), Jezebel (hypersexualized, promiscuous woman), and Sapphire (aggressive or angry black woman). Harris-Perry traces the evolution of these myths from slavery into today's culture and examines the effects of such oppression on the minds of the oppressed. She notes that the myths are often unrecognized by both those affected and those perpetuating the myth.

The title seems to say this book is about politics. However, it is only political in its discussion of unequal offering or utter denial of citizenship rights and

privileges for African American women. Harris-Perry maintains that this is a much larger issue than voting decisions and party affiliation.

***Sister Citizen*** tells of the lives of African American women throughout history in an engaging writing style, with sound academic treatment and references. People of all backgrounds can benefit from reading it. I believe that this book will especially empower African American women who have felt misrecognized, discouraged, marginalized, isolated, demonized or unappreciated. Understanding that they are not alone, that others are fighting the myths and stigmas will help them stand straight in a crooked room, and in the words of one reviewer “Walk straight in a crooked world”.

Dorothy Herd with edits by Ann Williams

## **News of Our Church Family**

### **In Memoriam We Remember**

**George Sentell, Jr.**, who died December 14, 2017.

### **New Contact Information**

Betsy and Joe Andrews  
2433 Lamberton, Cleveland Hts OH 44118

### **New members**

#### **Angela and Bader Boland**

2241 Briarwood Rd., Cleveland Hts OH 44118  
[baderbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:baderbuddy@gmail.com) (Bader)  
[I.am.aboland@gmail.com](mailto:I.am.aboland@gmail.com) (Angela)

#### **Kylie Evans and Adam Majot** (and daughters Violet and Clementine)

3299 Daleford Rd, Shaker Hts OH 44120  
[adamtmajot@gmail.com](mailto:adamtmajot@gmail.com); [kylie.evansmajot@gmail.com](mailto:kylie.evansmajot@gmail.com)

#### **Sue McCauley and Kerri McCauley**

1334 Washington Blvd, Mayfield Hts OH 44124  
[Suma0319@netzero.com](mailto:Suma0319@netzero.com) (Sue)    [kmccauley@lakelandcc.com](mailto:kmccauley@lakelandcc.com) (Kerri)

## **Care Group**

The Mt. Sinai CARE Group will be responsible for assisting the pastors in 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 are:

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

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

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

## **Volunteer Hours in November**

The office volunteers and TOWER assembly team– Nancy Grube, Ellen McChesney, Jane and Chuck Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, Pat Jenkins, and Betty Clark –worked a total of 71 hours in December. Thank you all!

## **January and February Adult Education**

### **South Hall, 9:30 am**

Tom and Kathryn will lead an examination of the Old Testament wisdom literature Ecclesiastes on Sunday mornings during January and February.

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 or 11:15	Pathways to the Promise Land
12:15	Coffee & conversation
5:00	Faith Leader

<b>January 7: Epiphany Sunday</b> 12:30 Leadership training	<b>Isaiah 60: 1-6</b> <b>Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14</b> <b>Ephesians 3: 1-12</b> <b>Matthew 2: 1-12</b>
<b>January 14</b> 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir 12:30 Homeless Standdown training 3:00 Ordination of Kate Kolmodin 4:00 Reconnecting with Creation	<b>1 Samuel 3: 1-10</b> <b>Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18</b> <b>1 Corinthians 6: 12-20</b> <b>John 1: 43-51</b>
<b>January 21</b> 12:15 Blood Pressure check	<b>Jonah 3: 1-5, 10</b> <b>Psalms 62: 5-12</b> <b>1 Corinthians 7: 29-31</b> <b>Mark 1: 14-20</b>
<b>January 28</b> 12:15 Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sine Nomine Choir 4:00 Reconnecting with Creation	<b>Deuteronomy 18: 15-20</b> <b>Psalms 111</b> <b>1 Corinthians 8: 1-13</b> <b>Mark 1: 21-28</b>

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

The church phone number is 216-321-2660	Ash Wednesday is February 14
<b><i>TOWER</i></b> deadlines: <b>7 am</b> on Jan. 11, Feb. 15, March 15	Our website is <a href="http://www.fhcpresb.org">www.fhcpresb.org</a>

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



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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 Ttp #403	1:00 Abundance Pantry 5:00 Fitness Fusion exercise class 7:00 Black History Education Committee	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 (begins Jan. 13)
	1 New Year's Day – office closed	2	3	4	5	6 8:00 Men's Group 9:00 New Leader training 5:30 Black Caucus potluck
7 See "Sundays in January"	8	9 7:00 Friends of HOLA meeting	10 7:00 Ministries worship 7:15 Ministries meet	11 7:00 am TOWER deadline 7:30 FH Swim Club	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day	16	17 10:00 TOWER collators 12:00 Bullshevicks 7:00 TransFamily East	18 9:30 Pantry lunch planning group	19 ANNUAL REPORTS due	20 8:00 Men's Group
21	22	23	24 7:00 Session meeting	25 12:00 Abundance Pantry Lunch LAST	26	27
28 Annual Meeting of the Congregation	29	30	31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3 PRISM opening retreat

January 2018