

# THE TOWER

FOREST HILL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

July/August 2022



## *Farewell and Thank You*

Dear Veronica,

Since your much anticipated arrival in January 2019, you have shared in our efforts to address the issues of diversity, the co-pastor model and the pandemic.

As Co-Moderator of the Session, you encouraged and challenged us to discern the future of Forest Hill Church. We explored what it means to become the Beloved Community and a Matthew 25 church as we wrestled with the recommendations of the Racial Equity Survey.

You and John shared advisory roles with the ministries, where your work with the Ministry of Stewardship brought renewed energy and focus to its message.

Your leadership in worship has been creative and thought-provoking, beginning with the first time you invited us to step into the light

and the flowing-water theme of Confirmation 2019. Elder Ann Williams shared one of her favorite memories of you singing the communion service. Ann said, "I always felt this gave the service a sense of true celebration that goes beyond what can be spoken." Ann went on to say she greatly appreciated your blending of excellent scholarship with the wisdom of experience and deep passion of the heart expressed in your sermons.

We further experienced your excellent scholarship in your adult education classes with topics such as grief, womanist theology, and discerning the discernment process.

Not everyone knows of your dedicated mentorship of the Personnel Committee that was restructured two years ago to establish a more consistent process and build bench strength in the committee by including both Session elders and congregation members.

Communications Manager Antoinette Richardson reminded me that she, Amy Wheatley, QinYing Tan, Nita Clark, and custodians Lisa Akers Richardson and Cheryl Alford were hired during the co-pastor relationship at Forest Hill.

Veronica, thank you for all you brought to us.

We wish you joy in your retirement.

The Rev. Dr. Veronica R. Goines  
M.Div., Ph.D.



*Join in a reception honoring Pastor Goines  
immediately following worship this  
Sunday, July 10, in the South Hall.*

— Melanie Alban  
Clerk of Session and  
Personnel Committee Chair

# Gospel Choir Workshops Held in June

– Qin Ying Tan



Sandra Dixon from Heights High led two gospel music workshops in the Forest Hill Church sanctuary on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. About 30 singers from the church and community attended!

The workshops began with a short presentation on the origin of gospel music and how it evolved into its various forms today. Then everyone dove into singing gospel songs without using sheet music. Sandra used hand gestures and her lovely singing voice to teach the music by rote, and, in no time at all, the group found its way.

The two workshops culminated with the new Forest Hill Church gospel choir celebrating Juneteenth in worship on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The choir

was joined by Kirk Georgia on percussion and keyboardist and FHC member Jim Hogg. Students from Heights High also added their talented voices to the songs of celebration, praise, and joy.

By the end of the service, the congregation was on its feet singing, dancing and clapping along with the choir and musicians.

"Frozen no more!" somebody shouted to huge applause and laughter.

Thank you to the "Friends of Music" for making this jubilant event possible. With continued financial gifts, such music workshops can become a regular occurrence. Just send your donation labeled "Friends of Music" to the church or go to our website at [www.fhcpresb.org/GIVE/](http://www.fhcpresb.org/GIVE/) Designated Gifts and indicate the amount of your gift to "Friends of Music."

## Families Welcome Summer at June Picnic



– Amy Wheatley

Forty grown-ups, kids and teens gathered on a beautiful evening at a picnic hosted by the Family, Youth and Children's Ministry. Children had fun with friends on the playground while teens and parents chatted in the shade. Delicious hamburgers and hot dogs were prepared by Rev. Lentz, our Grill Master Pastor. It was good to be together! [Continued on page 4]





# RON REGISTER SCHOLARSHIP

## Recipients Announced for 2022-2023

– Quentin Smith



At a Cleveland Heights High School awards program in late May, two talented and accomplished Heights' graduates, Troy Gentry and Keonshae "Shae" Boyd Bey, were named recipients of the Ron Register Scholarship Award for 2022-2023. Each graduate receives a cash award of \$2,500.00.

The scholarship is named in honor of Forest Hill Church member Ron Register who served on the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education for 16 years, and four terms as Board president. Ron's passion for quality public education and his commitment to social, economic, and racial justice are some of the criteria the committee uses to evaluate scholarship applicants.

Troy was a member of the National Honor Society and class council. He maintained a 3.9 GPA, which is especially impressive considering that outside his studies he was engaged in a variety of school clubs, athletics and the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN). Additionally, Troy was an active volunteer within the community.

Shae maintained a 3+ GPA while serving as captain of the football and wrestling teams and a member of student council and track team. Shae also was greatly involved in community activities assisting those less fortunate. He invested time working on behalf of the homeless, helping at a local food pantry and assisting in organizing a winter coat drive. In the fall, Shae will be enrolled at Florida Memorial University where he plans to major in Business Management.

The Ron Register Scholarship was initiated in 2019 a year after Mr. Register stepped down from the Board of Education. The scholarship program was conceived by the Black Caucus of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian, and the fund remains under the sponsorship of the church. However, at the inception of the program, the Black Caucus reached out to the broader church and surrounding community for support. As a result, the committee organized to administer the scholarship program was and remains multi-racial and comprised of both community and Forest Hill members.

Beginning in 2019 and every subsequent year, two remarkable students have received scholarship awards. The scholarship committee (Doris Allen, Reg. T. Evans, Susie Kaeser, Louisa Oliver, Quentin Smith, and Diana Woodbridge) stated that this year's two recipients exemplify some of Ron Register's endearing qualities, including selflessly giving back to the community while pursuing personal excellence. And the committee is confident that these two young men will make an indelible and positive mark on society.

Those interested in learning more about, or wishing to contribute to, the Ron Register Scholarship Fund can contact Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian, at 3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.



Scholarship Recipient  
Keonshae "Shae" Boyd Bey



L-R: Kenetta Boyd Bey, mother of recipient Keonshae Boyd Bey; Quentin Smith, member of the scholarship committee and Forest Hill Church; Troy Gentry, scholarship recipient; Reg. T. Evans, community member of the committee, who announced the awards; Diana Woodbridge, committee and Forest Hill Church member

# GCC Battle for Democracy: Noble Neighborhood

– Scott Lafferty & Diana Woodbridge



GCC's Battle for Democracy Campaign is a long-term ten-year campaign with the goal to fight voter suppression and eradicate voter depression in Northeast Ohio and beyond. The campaign is a continuation of GCC's history with voter engagement since 2012. Last Fall, GCC targeted five key neighborhoods in the City of Cleveland regarding the Cleveland mayoral campaign and voters' concerns.

This year GCC has added five inner-ring suburban neighborhoods to this effort, including the Noble neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. Each area, including Noble, will have lists of about 500 registered voters to contact. FHC will take the lead for the voter engagement campaign in the Noble neighborhood, along with other Cleveland Heights congregations. Diana Woodbridge and Scott Lafferty are the co-Congregational Captains for FHC's team.

They are recruiting people now to volunteer to be Neighborhood Captains and join the FHC team. Neighborhood Captains are leaders who build consistent relationships with residents to increase voter turnout and create issue agendas directly from residents to ensure long-term change!

Each Captain will have a list of 40 to 50 households to contact over a six-week period beginning late August or early September (decision is yet to be made; goal is flexibility). Contacts will be made in a variety of ways, including phone call or text, note or letter, voter's guide and "at the door" conversations. Those who would prefer not to, or who are unable to go door-to-door, will have proxy canvassers make those specific contacts.

Over the next couple months, Diana and Scott will engage with our Neighborhood Captains to plan training and help develop suggested scripts and strategies. This is important work that can impact voting and the strength of democracy in our church's own neighborhood.

Please consider joining this effort and feel free to ask questions about the effort of Diana: [diana@ninthrung.com](mailto:diana@ninthrung.com) or Scott: [swlaff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swlaff@sbcglobal.net).

Copy and paste the following link into your web browser to join our Battle for Democracy voter engagement team for Noble neighborhood.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L1vDu1ZxuLxzT-MhgX0lVx2cznZfl\\_XsvcV7FPvXFXg/edit?pli=1&pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1L1vDu1ZxuLxzT-MhgX0lVx2cznZfl_XsvcV7FPvXFXg/edit?pli=1&pli=1)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!**

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## Families Welcome Summer at June Picnic

*(Continued from page 2)*







– Dean Sieck

Because I was involved in the church library's recent acquisition of five sets of DVDs and their companion books on various aspects of biblical and other ancient studies, I have decided to briefly review them in this and succeeding issues of the *Tower*.

I first chose *Understanding the New Testament*, a set of lectures by David Brakke, a professor of history and Christian history at the The Ohio State University. A well-published scholar educated at Harvard and Yale, Dr. Brakke presents the New Testament (NT), in the first disc of four, in six lectures with the following titles:

**The Paradox of the New Testament:** FHC members who participated in Tom and Kathryn's recent series on the formation of the Christian Canon will be familiar with the thrust of Brakke's first lecture: that 27 separate writings make one "book" and how the NT as we know it came to be. Here, his lecture on the Gospels sets the context for the larger part of Brakke's presentation, which are Paul's letters.

**The Jewish Origins of Christian Faith:** Brakke briefly outlines salient aspects of Judaism as they pertain to Jesus and Christianity and provides contextual transition to Paul and his letters, which comprise most of the NT.

**First Thessalonians and Paul's Ministry:** Brakke discusses the structure of Paul's letters and lays out the broad strokes of Paul's life and ministry, including his travels and the conflicts that would be addressed throughout his writing.

**The Salvation of the Gentiles in Galatians:** In this lecture, Brakke addresses one of Paul's conflicts: his identity as a "good Jew" while yet presenting a gospel of salvation to Gentiles.

**Romans on God, Faith and Israel:** These ideas are further developed in the fifth Brakke lecture on Paul's discussion of the book of Romans.

**Community Conflicts in First and Second Corinthians:** It is in the final lecture that Professor Brakke addresses contextual matters of Paul's writings in the several letters to the church at Corinth.

These strategic choices enable Dr. Brakke to not only cover Paul's ministry but the salient aspects of his theology as a foundation for his later lectures.

Laced throughout his clear focus on these topics are the contexts, backstories and terminology employed by Biblical scholars, as well as images, maps, and other visual enhancements that expand his lecture.

Professor Brakke's language and delivery are accessible and easily followed. He speaks without a podium, frequently changing his stance to mitigate viewer boredom, and his steady eye contact makes the viewer feel as if he is in the room with you. The scholarship he relies on is current and "mainstream," frequently referring to textual and historical criticism of the NT. And he doesn't shy from discussing the interpretive problems these matters present. For later reference, his lectures are also presented in a companion book.

Although many members of FHC have participated in Bible study or other groups such as "Bible and Bagels," it is valuable to see and hear these topics discussed as a set of lectures on the New Testament as a whole. I found them engaging and am looking forward to the other three. You may very well appreciate them, too.



– Ann Williams

We are working to build a varied and engaging schedule of classes and groups for Adult Christian Education this coming Fall. We will continue to offer Bible Study, opportunities to learn spiritual disciplines, and classes for helping you increase your skills to interpret racism. Watch the weekly emails during July and August for announcements of the Fall classes.

## AND

Do you have something in mind that you would like to study with a small group of fellow Christians? Have you read a book that you would like to discuss? Are you curious about ways to pray or meditate? Would you like to explore why financial giving is considered a spiritual discipline? We can help you gather a group and find a good way to explore and learn.

If any of these ideas speaks to you or if you have another idea for a class, please email us at: [Spiritgrowth@fhcpresb.org](mailto:Spiritgrowth@fhcpresb.org)



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THIS SUMMER EVEN WHEN YOU ARE AWAY. JUST AS YOU HAVE EXPENSES EACH MONTH, SO DOES THE CHURCH.**

# Happy Birthday

Ron	Schmidt	July 02
Michael	Cosgrove	July 03
Robert	Young	July 03
Dwight	Stauffer	July 05
Brett	Himes	July 07
Diane	Moyer	July 07
Sandy	Ladebue	July 09
Susanne	Peterjohn	July 09
Graham	Peters	July 10
Randall	Shaner	July 10
Jon	Newton (Sr.)	July 11
Carolyn	Smith	July 12
Ian	Zych	July 12
John	Harmon	July 13
Fran	Thomas	July 13
Peter	Williams	July 14
Barbara	Cloud	July 17
Genetha (NITA)	Clark	July 19
Vincent	Taylor	July 21
Sarah	Lentz	July 23
Ronald	Polderman	July 23
Maydene	Young	July 23
Don	Ghiandoni	July 24
Jon	Newton (Jr.)	July 24
Mary	Ball	July 25
Stephanie	Brown	July 25
Joseph	Andrews	July 26
Consuelo	Heineman	July 26
Christina	Hidek	July 30
Lisa	Richardson	July 30
Dr. Qin	Tan	July 30
Amy	Dillenbeck	July 31
Caleb	Peters	July 31
Kathy	Carr	August 01
Rev. Dr. John	Lentz Jr.	August 01
Mollie	Secor	August 01
Robyn	Hales	August 03
Megan	Ullom	August 05
Morag	Keefe	August 07
Leslie	Pendleton	August 07
Nora	Duncan	August 08
Scott	Duncan	August 08



Anne	Hunter	August 08
Betsy	Wolf	August 11
Laury	Larson	August 12
Sheryl	Dugard	August 14
Barbara	Lind	August 14
Keith	Logan	August 19
Jessica	Kelley	August 20
Andrew	Schellenberg	August 20
Caty	Himmelman	August 21
Megan	Muller-Girard	August 22
Brooke	Marcy	August 23
Catherine	Monaghan	August 25
Joanne	Shaner	August 25
Peg	Weissbrod	August 27
Mèlani	Joseph	August 28
Jeanette	Nemcek	August 31

## FOREST HILL CHURCH COMMUNITY GRANTS 2022

The Ministry of Justice and Mission will again be funding community grants that focus on meeting the needs of local communities. Forest Hill Church is a Matthew 25 congregation, and projects must align with Matthew 25 priorities, such as building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Applications can focus on operating funds for ongoing programs or seed funds for new programs. Non-profits, small businesses, individuals, and small groups are welcome to apply.

Applications are due September 9, 2022 and will be reviewed later that week. Please email [jm@fhcpresb.org](mailto:jm@fhcpresb.org) if you have questions or would like to receive an application.

Everyday

# stewardship



*from your Stewardship Ministry*

## Let's Talk About ...

**Who loves to talk about personal finances?**

**Raise your hands!!! What? No one?**

Right. Talking about money is hard. Talking about one's own personal or household income, a budget, and what to spend it on – even harder. So, when we talk about supporting the church with our donations, things can get sticky.

Along with all of our discomfort with money talk comes the differing value systems, and perhaps even political views, that underpin what we do and how we do it. Add to that the realities of an inequitable society and ultimately, language seems like the least of our concerns.

Language, though, is what we have to communicate with each other, and we've learned in lots of ways that HOW we talk about the privileges or inequities of our lives can affect how we deal with them. So, let's be brave and get down to some money talk with each other.

In our Stewardship Ministry meetings, we've been evaluating the words we use about giving financial support to the church. We all feel a bit icky about the implied privilege in the language we use around giving, but there aren't a lot of innovative ways out there to talk with each other differently. We'd like to change that. Perhaps we need to invent our own way to discuss money with our fellow FHC attendees.

I want to ask you a set of questions about this and see what kinds of conversations we can spark:

1. Are you comfortable with the term "pledge" to describe how you give to the church?
2. Do you have the kind of household financial situation that allows you to accurately predict what your income will be, and thus, what you can choose and commit to give?
3. If not "pledge," do you have a suggestion for what we could call a commitment to give a regular amount (monthly, yearly, each paycheck, whatever) to the church? "Recurrent donation," maybe?
4. If you have an irregular income, how would you describe your donations? Would "spot donation" be a respectful and accurate term? "Free-will giving?" Do you have better suggestions?

5. What kind of framework works for you when you think about church giving? Monthly? When you can? A lot some years and a little some others? Something else?
6. When you think about giving at the end of your lifetime, what kinds of words make sense? Does "legacy" feel inappropriate? What other terms feel better? A "life gift"? "Planned life donation"?

Perhaps these six questions won't be answered by the time our stewardship campaign begins this fall or the 2023 budget is set. That's ok. We've been learning to talk about hard things, and this is one of them.

The Stewardship Ministry can commit, though, to fostering this conversation and educating ourselves and each other about these issues. That's what we're seeking to do here. So, let me ask another couple of questions:

1. Would you want to be part of an in-person conversation about how we talk about money?
2. Do you have suggestions for how that would feel safe and respectful for you?

You can email me at [KimberlyHill@ameritech.net](mailto:KimberlyHill@ameritech.net) with responses to any of these questions. Whatever you share, I will keep confidential. If you would prefer complete anonymity, drop a note in an envelope in the church office mailbox for "Stewardship" with "Kim" written on the front. I appreciate your willingness to talk about hard stuff!

While you're thinking, be sure to catch up on the wonderful member testimonial videos posted on our website. Look for "Stewardship Summer 2022" under the "GIVE" tab in the top banner.



As always, thank you for your support of Forest Hill Church.

*– Kim Hill, Stewardship Ministry Member*

**Staff Listing & Emails**

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 Rev. Carol Wedell, Parish Associate

**Social Media Platforms**

Web site: [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)  
 Facebook: <http://facebook.com/ForestHillChurch>  
 Instagram: [@fhcpresb](https://www.instagram.com/fhcpresb)  
 Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/foresthillpcusa/>

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*Discovering God's call. . .  
 Celebrating the Spirit's presence. . .  
 Witnessing to Christ's transformative power!*

**Tower Staff/Volunteers**

Antoinette Richardson  
 FHC Director of Communications  
 (office administrator: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org))  
 Jim Hogg, advisory editor  
 Kay Hogg, layout designer

**VERY IMPORTANT**

Primary Election  
 August 2, 2022

Purpose: To select Democratic and Republican candidates for the Ohio House, Ohio Senate and State Central Committee to appear on the 2022 Nov. ballot. Voting districts and some poll locations have been changed due to recent redistricting. To find yours, go to: [www.443vote.us](http://www.443vote.us) or <https://Ballotpedia.org> or call the Board of Elections at 216-443-8683.

Vote-by-Mail applications are easily available:

- in the church lobby
- online at [www.443vote.us](http://www.443vote.us); print or request an application
- call the Board of Elections at: 216-443-8683



# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	<b>6:00 pm</b> -AA: Progress not Perfection <b>7:00 pm</b> -AI Anon: Now There's Hope <b>7:30 pm</b> -AA: Borton Group	<b>10:30 am</b> -Abundance Pantry <b>-Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline</b>	<b>7:30 am</b> –Bible & Bagels (virtual) <b>12:00 pm</b> -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wed. Women's Group	<b>1:30 pm</b> -English Dance <b>6:00 pm</b> -Bell Choir <b>7:30 pm</b> -Chancel Choir	<b>9:30 am</b> -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>July 1</b> John and Veronica out of the office	<b>July 2</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk
<b>July 3</b> Summer Choir  <b>Communion Sunday</b>	<b>July 4</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>July 5</b>	<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 7</b>	<b>July 8</b>	<b>July 9</b> 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lustic  9:00 am: Fiber and Fellowship
<b>July 10</b> Summer Choir <b>Pastor Goines Last day</b>  <b>Reception for Pastor Goines</b>	<b>July 11</b>	<b>July 12</b>  6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity	<b>July 13</b>  7:00 pm: Trustee Meeting	<b>July 14</b>  6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity	<b>July 15</b>	<b>July 16</b>  8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lustic
<b>July 17</b> Summer Choir	<b>July 18</b>	<b>July 19</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>July 21</b>	<b>July 22</b>	<b>July 23</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk
<b>July 24</b>	<b>July 25</b>	<b>July 26</b>  6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity	<b>July 27</b>  7:00 pm: Session Meeting (Hybrid)	<b>July 28</b>	<b>July 29</b>	<b>July 30</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY YING AND LISA!</b>
<b>July 31</b>	<b>August 1</b>  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR LENTZ!</b>	<b>August 2</b>	<b>August 3</b>	<b>August 4</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>August 6</b>

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regularly scheduled events: meet every week unless noted	<b>6:00 pm</b> -AA: Progress not Perfection <b>7:00 pm</b> -AI Anon: Now There's Hope <b>7:30 pm</b> -AA: Borton Group	<b>10:30 am</b> -Abundance Pantry <b>-Bulletin and Weekly email Deadline</b>	<b>7:30 am</b> -Bible & Bagels (virtual) <b>12:00 pm</b> -Staff Meeting (virtual) -AA: Wed. Women's Group	<b>1:30 pm</b> -English Dance <b>6:00 pm</b> -Bell Choir <b>7:30 pm</b> -Chancel Choir	<b>9:30 am</b> -AI Anon: Hand in Hand	
July 31	<b>August 1</b>  <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR LENTZ!</b>	August 2	August 3	August 4	August 5	August 6
<b>August 7</b>  <b>Communion Sunday</b>	August 8	<b>August 9</b>  6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity	<b>August 10</b>  7:00 pm: Trustee Meeting	<b>August 11</b>  <b>TOWER Deadline</b>	<b>August 12</b>  7:00 pm: Anniversary Party	<b>August 13</b> 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lustic
August 14	August 15	August 16	August 17	August 18	August 19	<b>August 20</b> 8:00 am: Women's Walk with Julie Lustic
August 21	August 22	<b>August 23</b>  6:30 pm: Creating Racial Equity	<b>August 24</b>  7:00 pm: Session Meeting (Hybrid)	August 25	August 26	<b>August 27</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk
August 28	August 29	August 30	August 31	September 1	September 2	<b>September 3</b> 8:00 am: Men's Group. Women's Walk
September 4	<b>September 5</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	September 6	September 7	September 8	September 9	September 10