

John C. Lentz, Pastor

Clover Reuter Beal, Associate Pastor

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

## Forest Hill Church

The Tower

April 2009

### *Lent and Holy Week at Forest Hill Church*

#### Service of Evening Prayer

##### Wednesday April 1

**6:30 light supper** served by Morag Keefe

**7:15 worship** in the Chapel.

Clover, Anne and John will lead a simple and beautiful liturgy shaped by the theme that our faith can be the source of refreshment, treasure and freedom. The service will last about 45 minutes.

#### Holy Week

**Thursday, April 9** We will hold our traditional Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary (preceded by dinner at 6:30).

**Friday, April 10** (Good Friday) We will hold our traditional mid-day service from 12 – 1 p.m. in the chapel.

#### EASTER

**Sunday, April 12** We will have services at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion and at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus."



### *From the Pastor*

Dear Friends,

It may seem odd that I had to travel over 5,000 miles to get perspective on faith and politics in Northeast Ohio. But that is what happened. On our recent pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine, we had the privilege of worshiping with the congregation of the Christmas Church, an Evangelical Lutheran church in Bethlehem.

Certainly there are vast differences between Pastor Raheb's context and ours. His is a world of security walls, occupation, and minority status as a Palestinian Christian. Our context is one of safety, majority identity, and freedom. However, church members included teachers, doctors, lawyers, musicians, artists, and business folk. There were many young families, children and teens – just like our congregation. After the service we met with the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. He said several things that have remained with me.

Describing the situation in Bethlehem he said there was "too much politics and not enough attention to the *polis*." *Polis* is a Greek word translated *city*. Pastor Raheb is committed to the building up of Bethlehem despite the dire situation. We often forget how important the city is. The Bible begins in a garden (Genesis 2:8) but ends in a city. In the Hebrew scripture there is the exhortation to rebuild the city walls of Jerusalem after the exile (Nehemiah 2:17). In Christian scriptures the final image is of the "new" Jerusalem where all dwell in peace and prosperity (Revelation 21:1-4).

Pastor Raheb said that there was "too much religion and not enough faith." Sometimes I do think we over-emphasize the particular at the expense of the universal. We are so focused on the immediate that we don't see the potential. We are so consumed with our own stuff that we fail to recognize the gifts of others.

Pastor Raheb made a distinction between optimism and hope. Optimism, he said, comes from the same root as the word optic – what you can see with your eyes. We look around and we see the very real problems that beset us and it would be foolish to be blind to the realities. However, hope is something much more profound than what you can see. Hope stirs the imagination and taps the power to work for that which is envisioned.

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In this time when all the news of our region seems to be bad news, I believe that we need to be particularly committed to the health of our core city, Cleveland. People of faith need to agitate political leaders to move beyond the parochial towards regional sharing of the wealth. We have the capacity. There is an abundance of resources and talents in our communities and in our pews. Therefore, as Easter people, our job is to cultivate hope, cast a large vision of what can be, and join those who are already at work building the kingdom.

Remember, we believe in resurrection!

God bless you,

John

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Dear friends,

“When It’s Time to Change, It’s Time to Re-arrange,” sang Peter Brady of the Brady Bunch sitcom when he was experiencing the growing pains of young adolescence. Of course, this was one of my favorite Brady Bunch episodes in about 1970!

Spring brings renewal. And spring has arrived – although it doesn’t quite feel like that yet. Nevertheless, it is the season we celebrate change – new life after a long winter of dormancy. It is the season we get to see what emerges into the light after the darkness lay over the land like a blanket. Renewal will be evident in the weeks ahead.

On one hand, I believe in personal renewal and transformation too. My childhood pastor used to say, “If you want change in the church, draw a circle and stand in it. Then pray that God would bring revival to the circle.” Revival and renewal begin with each of us. Dostoevsky said, “Everybody wants to change the world, but nobody thinks about changing himself.” If we want to transform the world we must start by looking at ourselves. How true.

On the other hand, another favorite writer of mine, Anthony DeMello, wrote, “What if you heard God say to you, ‘Don’t change. Don’t change anything about yourself at all. You are perfect just the way you are!’? How would you respond?” It’s nearly impossible for me to hear those words and to allow them to sink in. It’s nearly impossible to imagine hearing those words and not respond, “Yeah, but....”

We live in the tension of “being transformed more and more into the image and likeness of Christ,” said the Apostle Paul, and living in the acceptance of being who we are, just the way we are in this moment. For us, Christ died. No conditions given.

Let us celebrate this season of change, renewal and resurrection. Christ is the Victor over death. Christ came so that we might live as transformed people, both now and in the days to come.

Blessings be to you this lovely spring,

Clover

# Christian Education

## Children and Youth Ministries

The youth and children explored the events and mysteries of Lent in many ways. Our younger members participated in classes and workshops on the stories from the gospels about the events of Holy Week. In our Trailblazers' program the youth focused on service projects. Our Senior Highs explored different religions. Thank you to all who guided our children and youth during Lent.

- In the nursery, thank you to Marcia Grant, Jen Fu, Joanne & Dan Shaner, Lisa Koops, Alexis and Leslie Smith, Amanda Mervine, Emily Brock, Meg Lentz, and Jessica Klein.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Christina & Jason Hidek.
- In Children in Worship class, thank you to Peter Williams, Sandy Schultz and the Mid-High Youth.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, Thomas Taylor and other Senior High Youth, Lindsey Burdette, Kara Schellenberg, Amy and Chris Davis, Barry Hartz, Dele Solaru, Betsy Andrews, Cathy Ghiandoni, Diana Johannessen, Alisha Trammel and John Schellenberg.
- During Descant Choir activity time, thank you to Shelly and Jack Jesberger, Tori Weisberg, Eric Muller-Girard, Chantal Miller, Kate and Dave Burleigh, Todd Webster, Peter Williams, and Consuelo & Roger Heineman.
- In our Trailblazers program, thank you to Sharon Shumaker, Deanne Lentz and Tori Weisberg.
- In our Senior High Church School, thank you to Jason Hidek.

### Children's Ministry

**Little Explorers** (three/four year olds)

**Children in Worship** (older four year olds and kindergarten)

During the month of April our pre-school will explore and participate in Bible stories about Easter and Jesus' resurrection. Each lesson has an activity response to the story they heard to help them better understand the meaning. Lauren Wyss and Julie Waring will lead the *Little Explorers* class and Jennifer Blakeney will lead the *Children in Worship* class.

### Pathways to the Promise Land – grades 1-5

The next rotation of *Holy Week: Gospel Comparisons* begins March 15 through April 5. The gospel writers selected particular stories about Jesus' death and resurrection to explain these events to their different audiences. The children will participate in an art, service, experiments, and computer workshops that will explore the events of Holy Week.

### Trailblazers – grades 6-7

During the first half of March the Mid-High Youth participated in service projects. They had a bake sale and collected \$100 towards the ingredients of a chili dinner which they prepared and froze for the FHC food cupboard. They used the rest of the money to buy additional food for the Food Cupboard. During Lent our Mid-High Youth continue their study of the Bible. They will explore and participate in activities about the gospels. Each session will focus on one of the gospels from the writer's viewpoint and stories about Jesus that are unique to that gospel.

### Senior High Church School – grades 9-12

Jason Hidek continues to lead this group, focusing on "what is religion?" Not every person involves themselves in an organized religion, but religion is a part of every human culture. The youth will explore this theme through discussion and attending another faith's worship service. We are all God's children and God speaks to us all. The youth will decide which religion's weekly worship they will attend on March 29.

### Dates to Know

#### April 1 Confirmation Bible Studies

Meet in Bodwell Hall from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

#### April 5 Cherub Choir

Pre-school children will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:15 for rehearsal.

#### April 5 Palm Sunday

Children 3 years old through Grade 5 will meet in South Hall at 10:50 for Palm Sunday processional directions.

#### April 12 Easter

No church school programs. Childcare available during services for children 5 years and younger

#### April 15 Confirmation Bible Studies

Meet in Bodwell Hall from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

### April 19 Gathering Time

Pathways children will meet in the Chapel for Gathering Time at 11:00, and will then attend their workshops with their shepherds.

### April 26 Bibles

Bibles will be presented to our Pathways children who have not yet been given a Bible from Forest Hill Church.

### April 29 Confirmation Bible Studies

Meet in Bodwell Hall from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger  
Director of Christian Education



### A Garden at FHC

Do you love to dig in the dirt? Do you the delight in the wonder of a seed becoming a plant? Do you find God in the beauty of an eggplant, the taste of a ripe tomato, the scent of basil? Are you looking for a concrete way to respond to hunger in our community? Then we need your help! We are exploring the possibility of planting a Forest Hill Vegetable Garden this summer: we hope for an abundant plot filled with vegetables and flowers, tended by Forest Hill members and friends, and harvested and shared with our local community. If this sounds like a way you'd like to live out your faith, come join the process! We are looking for volunteers to help plan, organize and tend the garden, as well as to help with other tasks along the way. Green thumbs are not required (but if you have a green thumb, definitely let us know!).

Contact Laura Steiner at [lauramsteiner@yahoo.com](mailto:lauramsteiner@yahoo.com) or 216-297-9865 for more information or to volunteer.

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### Buy FHC Grocery Cards Support Forest Hill Mission Trips

The Ministry of Justice and Mission has designated that 90% of the profits from grocery certificates sales from January to June 2009 support future adult and youth mission trips. Grocery gift cards may be purchased in Fellowship Hall after the service most Sunday mornings. 10% of the grocery card profits support the FHC Emergency Food Cupboard on an ongoing basis.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Since 1949, Presbyterians and other Christians have taken a Lenten **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering to minister to the needs of the less fortunate, as Jesus calls us to do. This year's offering supports three programs of our denomination:

- ❖ *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* to aid victims of conflict and natural disasters in places like Gaza and New Orleans
- ❖ *Presbyterian Hunger Program* to help with direct food relief as well as long-term development assistance in the U.S. and overseas.
- ❖ *Self-Development of People* to make grants to the poor to create grass-roots community organizations and small-scale enterprises.

A portion of **One Great Hour of Sharing** offerings received here returns for projects in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve -- for a Hunger Action Enabler working with local churches, or grants approved by our local Self-Development committee to groups as close by as the Council Gardens Tenant Association on N. Taylor Road for a cooperative fruit and vegetable gardening project.

The need is great, especially this year. When the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is received on Easter Sunday, please give generously!

Elder Dick Obermanns

Ministry of Justice and Mission

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## Earth Stewardship

The month of April is extra special this year, as the holy days of Palm Sunday and Easter occur on the first two Sundays. April is also the month of 'Earth Day,' April 22. Earth Day is dedicated to the environmental health of our planet. How do we stack up in 2009? How does each of us engage in helping to preserve and improve the environmental health of our planet? Here are some points to ponder, reflect, and resolve to improve:

- ❖ Do we limit our driving as much as possible, helping to preserve our fossil fuels?
- ❖ Do we practice good conservation in the use of our electrical energy?
- ❖ Are we using the newer fluorescent energy-saving light bulbs?
- ❖ Do we recycle all of our household waste/trash that we can?
- ❖ Do we purchase paper, wood, and other forest products only from sustainable-source providers?
- ❖ Are we using only 'green' maintenance products, cleaners and solvents?
- ❖ Do we consume only those food products – fish in particular – which are legally caught, farm-raised, or otherwise are products only of sustainable fishing?
- ❖ Are we purchasing appliances that have an Energy Star rating?

10-11 calendar

These are just a few of the checkpoints we should use to fulfill God's desire that we should enjoy the fruits of the earth, but we must nevertheless care for, value, and maintain His creation – and that includes the living creatures that God has entrusted into our care. I'm certain each of us will want to be sure that we are not purchasing or using animal products that come from any endangered species.

How do you and your family stack up?

Dave Neff, Elder  
Ministry of Stewardship

<b>Sundays in April</b>	
<i>Classes and children's choir will not meet April 12</i>	
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Adult Ed Youth Ed Descant Choir (gr. 1-5) Child care begins Confirmation Class</b>
<b>10:15</b>	<b>Descant Choir activity</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Worship Little Explorers (3s, 4s) Children in Worship (older 4s, K)</b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Pathways (gr. 1-5) 11:00 on April 19</b>
<b>12:15</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir (April 5, 19)</b>
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Kerygma (April 5, 19) Faith Leader class</b>

<b>Sunday, April 5</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 11: 1-11 Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16 Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 14:1 – 15:47</b>
10:15	Cherub Choir	
11:00	Worship: communion	
12:15	Teacher training	
4:00	MOB: Mid High	
5:00	MOB: Sr. High	
<b>Sunday, April 12</b>	<b>Easter</b>	<b>Acts 10: 34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 John 20: 1-18</b>
9:00	Worship (Chapel)	
11:00	Worship (Sanctuary)	
9:30 and 12:15	MOB Bake Sale	
Classes and children's choir will not meet		
<b>Sunday, April 19</b>	<b>2 Easter</b>	<b>Acts 4: 32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 John 20: 19-31</b>
12:15	Blood pressure check	
	MOB: Mid and Sr High Games Day	
<b>Sunday, April 26</b>	<b>3 Easter</b>	<b>Acts 3: 12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48</b>
12:30	Cleveland Cello Society	
12:00	MOB: MH trip to the zoo	
5:00	MOB: Sr. High	
5:30	"Talking to Teens about Sex" (parent class)	

## MOB News for April

Thank you

**to our fun and thrill-seeking adults who came on  
the ski trip last month to Peek n' Peek:**

**Rev. John Lentz   Robert Lowe   Carol Gifford**

Spring has sprung! For our youth groups that means great weather, beautiful flowers, finally getting to go outside, and our Easter Bake Sale is this month for Senior High!

If you are planning to go this summer's *Senior High mission trip* for Inward Bound, make sure you are at church on **April 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**, goodies in hand.



**We do not have evening events on APRIL 12 – Enjoy your Easter!**

*Senior High Small Groups meet the week of April 1, 15, and 29. Remember-this means we will not have Bible Study on Wed. nights during those weeks!*

### What's coming up this month . . .

**April 19: Bring a friend to lunch & games Day!** Directly after church (or after Sine Nomine Choir), both Mid and Senior High will meet up together for some team building challenges, huge group games, and –of course- a great lunch. Heads-up: It's also a contest between mid and senior high youth to see which group brings the most friends, so make sure you get your buddy lined up for the day!

**Time:** Noon – 3 p.m.

**Cost:** bring an ingredient or two for making tacos. We will need people to bring: lettuce, shredded cheese, taco chips, salsa, beans, sour cream and 2-liter bottles of pop to drink (I'll take care of the meat & shells).

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### Mid High Events

**April 5:** Mid High Youth Group: 4 – 5:30pm, down in the MOB room at church. Come check us out!

**April 14 & 28:** Mid High Bible Study, Lindsey's office. Meet from 7 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights to review our *Grapple* studies – this month we're figuring out if Jesus was a liar, or not.

**April 26: Earth Day celebration at the ZOO!** You MUST RSVP for this event by April 5<sup>th</sup>! We're having a day at the zoo to talk about our responsibility to the earth – meet at church at noon; we'll be home around 5:30 p.m.

**Wear very comfortable shoes and dress for the weather** – we'll be outside most of the day!

**Cost:** \$10 per person. We will provide a sandwich lunch for each person who comes.

★ *I will need adults to drive!! Please get in touch with Lindsey if you would like to come along!* ★

### SENIOR HIGH EVENTS

**April 5 & 26:** Senior High Youth group: down in the MOB room, 5 – 7:00 p.m.!

**April 8 & 22:** Bible Study at Phoenix coffee on Coventry, 7 – 8 p.m. Bring your cash, grab a drink, and come hang out with us all night! **Never been?** Ask someone what it's like, or just come see for yourself.

#### **Weeks of April 1, 15, and 29:** Senior High small groups

Our community groups have been meeting for a month now, but if you'd like to find out how to get involved, call Lindsey! This month we're working on chilling out, prayer, and finding your safety net. *Make sure you check in with your group leader to see which day you are meeting.*

Lindsey Burdette  
Youth Director

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## Music



Palm Sunday and Easter come early in April, and who knows what weather to expect? Do you remember the Easter blizzard two years ago? On Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, members of the Cherub Choir, under the direction of Lisa Koops, and Descant Choir will wave their banners and palms as we sing our hosannas. On Easter morning, we'll celebrate this festive liturgy in the Chapel at 9:00 a.m. with a small choir, and at 11:00 a.m. with the full choir singing music of Handel, Beethoven, and Chilcott (a contemporary British composer). We'll continue our tradition of singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* with anyone who'd like to join us. Seems like there are more people singing that chorus than sitting in the pews – it's glorious!

I will present the 8<sup>th</sup> **Art and Music Night** on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. This month's topic is **Britain: From Stonehenge to Graffiti Art**. Come enjoy beautiful slides, all British music (Byrd, Purcell, Handel, Elgar), and amiable discussion as we discuss the impact our British brothers and sisters have had on adding beauty to our world. The program will last around an hour and cookies and coffee will be served.

On Sunday, April 26, the music will honor our attempts to be mindful of environmental stewardship. The anthem *We Belong to the Earth*, by yours truly, will be sung.

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson  
Director of Music  
[acwping@adelphia.net](mailto:acwping@adelphia.net)  
[annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org)

## News of Our Church Family

### New Contact Information

#### Robin Allen-Palmore

3618 Grosvenor  
Cleveland Hts OH 44118  
216-321-0162

#### Joyce Senger (former member)

44378 Maltese Falcon Square  
Ashburn VA 20147  
703-729-8896

[jsenger@yahoo.com](mailto:jsenger@yahoo.com)

### New emails only

Donna Frey [windmill36@gmail.com](mailto:windmill36@gmail.com)

Robin Mervine [rmervine@aaaec.com](mailto:rmervine@aaaec.com)

### Ushers for April

Kevin Stauffer, Lead Usher; Joe Andrews, Nick Baumgartner, Bill Currie, Kay Currie, Charles Ishler, Jane Ishler, Kate Monaghan, Daryl Musick, Victoria Sampson. Sam Manu, Head Usher

## New Members Mark Your Calendars

All new and even relatively new FHC members (and their spouses/significant others) are invited for a night of food and fun and a chance to get to know each other. This potluck dinner, hosted by the Church Growth committee, will be held on Saturday, April 18 at 6 p.m. at the home of Diana and Ted Woodbridge, 1255 Oakridge Drive, Cleveland Hts.

RSVP to the church office: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org) or 216-321-2660.

Please bring a salad, dessert or main dish to share.



The TOWER can be sent to any college student who would like to receive it and who gives us an up-to-date mailing address. Please contact Lynda in the church office and you'll be added to the mailing list.

The Nazareth CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during April. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family. Our thanks to Janet Kickel, Deacon CARE leader for March, and the Mt. Sinai CARE group for providing the coffee hour hosts, greeters, greeting card ministry, meals and transportation needs of the congregation for the month

Members of the Nazareth CARE Group are:

Cindy Newton, Deacon and Leader	Jane & Cliff Kowall
Doris Bartlett	Barb & Kermit Lind
Marcia Beck	Nancy Mann
JoAnne Black	Mel, Robin, Amanda and Emily
Deborah Chapman & Lyn Hale	Mervine
Ron and Patty Console and family	Daryl Musick
Jeff and Holly Daedelow	Dave & Allie Neff
Jim and Terry Daedelow	Eric Rich, Deborah Peters and family
Pat Drake	Lois Reilly
Jeannine Gury, Scott Peters and family	Jim Roosa and family
Jennifer and Barry Hartz	Peggy Sasso
Kathryn Himmelsteib	Kevin & Laura Stauffer and family
Jean Izant	Megan & Peter Tzefronis and family
Audrey & Bob Kellermeyer	Matt & Sarah Winters and family

### Help Wanted

The Church Growth Committee is looking for someone to help with DVD/media production. Please contact Christina Hidek at 440/646-9093 or [jediwildcat@att.net](mailto:jediwildcat@att.net) if you can help.

## Social Groups and Circles

**Hilltoppers** (retired singles and couples) Hilltoppers plan to have their annual dinner on Friday May 15, 2009. Meet at the Grubes' at 5:30 for appetizers, then come to the church for a catered dinner. Watch for details!

**Heather Circle** (retired women) We'll meet for lunch on Tuesday, April 20 at 12:30 at the church.

**Iris Circle** (all women of the church)

We will meet at the church on Tuesday April 21 to hear about the FHC Israel – Palestine pilgrimage.

## Office News and Reminders

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is every Wednesday morning. The deadline for the Tower is usually the second Monday of every month. The **TOWER** schedule is as follows: April 13, May 11, June 8, August 10.

Emails and extensions for the staff are as follows:

- ❖ John Lentz, [pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org), ext. 200
- ❖ Clover Beal, [pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org](mailto:pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org), ext 201
- ❖ Anne Wilson (music), [annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org), ext 208
- ❖ CE Office: Liz Wollaeger, [lizw@fhcpresb.org](mailto:lizw@fhcpresb.org), ext. 206
- ❖ Marge Kaercher, [margek@fhcpresb.org](mailto:margek@fhcpresb.org), ext. 204
- ❖ Lindsey Burdette (youth): [lindseyb@fhcpresb.org](mailto:lindseyb@fhcpresb.org), ext 207
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial office): [beckya@fhcpresb.org](mailto:beckya@fhcpresb.org), ext. 203
- ❖ Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org), ext. 202

Our website is [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

CDs of the worship service are available each week. Often they are available soon after worship. If you miss that, call or email the church office, or leave a note, and the CD will be in the volunteer office the following Sunday. The cost is \$1 per CD.

Would you like a large-print edition of the **TOWER**? Or a bulletin sent to you if you are ill or away? Please contact the church office with your request.

Sunday flower donations are coordinated by the church office. Please call or email Lynda for information about donating an arrangement. The cost is \$20 per arrangement.

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From the Financial office: Pledge contributions and other income

	<b>Feb. 09</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Actual	\$34,035	118,267
Budget	\$52,744	139,488

Source: Feb. 09 Activity Statements and 09 Budget

**Make your donation to FHC one of your regular on-line banking payments!**

**It's free, easy, and convenient for you and very helpful to the church.**



Easter lilies for Easter Day may be ordered for \$7.00 per plant. Please contact the office (by phone, mail or email) with the following information:

**Your name:**

Name you would like used in the bulletin dedication:  
*le Tom and Angie Rupert, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rupert, the Rupert family*

**How many lilies would you like?**

**Dedication (in honor of, in memory of):**