

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

July – August, 2009

My Dear Friends,

I am still all aglow after the celebration of my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and of my 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving as Pastor at Forest Hill Church. Thank you for your kind and affirming emails, cards, letters, hugs, gifts and words. It was an amazing day. It will always remain a cherished memory.

What an honor it is for me to be a pastor to you. Your agitations and affirmations push me to grow. Truly, the staff that we have assembled is second to none. Where would Forest Hill be without Anne, Clover, Liz, and Lindsey? I wonder if we would have been having that celebration if Clover, Anne, Liz and Lindsey were not sharing their talents with us? I shudder to think about it!

The celebration also reminded me how we need to do this kind of thing more often. NO, not for me. We need to affirm constantly each other's gifts, talents, and offerings. There is so much to be thankful for. There is an abundance of resources. We shouldn't wait until our funerals to say good things about each other and to recognize how the grace and richness of God's mercy has been poured out upon us.

I find that affirmations, far from making one lazy, actually increases energy! Being critical drains. Saying "thank you" lifts up. Celebrations make me want to do more. Joy, and the laughter and tears that flow from it, empowers.

So thank you. Thank you for the richest 15 years imaginable. To think that I get paid for this work – WOW! Thanks be to God.

John

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Dear friends,

In my devotional time today, I came across a quote from St. Ambrose that writer Simon Tugwell included in his book **Prayer**. I really liked it: “[Ambrose] said to his congregation using the old Christian symbol, he compared them in this stormy world to fish swimming the sea. And to them too he said: ‘Be a fish.’ We must learn not to be swamped by the situations that we find ourselves in. We must learn how to get through them with a minimum of damage, and a maximum of profit . . . We must learn to pass through situations like a fish, rather than carrying them all with us like a snail. We should certainly emerge with a little bit more experience of life, but there is no need to carry more with us than we have to—each situation carries quite enough trouble with it by itself!”

Jesus also said, “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.” How true. How true. And, yet, how difficult it is to stay in the present and not get ahead of ourselves, concerning ourselves about what might happen tomorrow, next week, or even next year! Living in fear of tomorrow robs us of joy and pleasure today.

As I write this, we are preparing for our daughter Sophie's graduation from high school and her 18th birthday. As all parents say at these milestones: Where did the time go? Did I appreciate the moments of her life? Can I appreciate today and the moment of this event? Goodness knows, I want to. I am trying to stay in the present, not getting caught up with the concerns of party details and planning ahead for a college departure. Today can take care of itself. Remember, Clover, "Be a fish." Swim with the current and allow yourself to be carried along and enjoy the goodness of the water today.

Friends, Be a fish! And may you enjoy God's blessings this day!

Clover

### Summer Adult Education

Our new Summer Adult Education bible study continues each Sunday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at (or around) 9:45 in South Hall, through July 26th. We will read, discuss and contemplate the text that will be preached that day, deepening our understanding of God's word for us.

In August we will meet to discuss the best-selling book *The Shack*. If you've read the book, you've no doubt enjoyed and been challenged by its depiction of an active and living God. If not, it will make a terrific addition to your summer reading lists. More details to come on that session.

Elder Tom Zych

### The BIG Give

Well once again, Forest Hill Church showed itself to be the coolest place around. As of this writing we have collected nearly \$25,000. Remember we gave away \$15,000 and so (if I do the math correctly) we have "made" \$10,000, all of which will go to mission as directed by the Session. If you want to read about how the original \$50 was used check out our website ([www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) - thank you **Peg Weissbrod!**). Click "sermons" and listen to the sermon delivered on May 31<sup>st</sup>. You will hear lots of good news about creative, funny and successful ideas.

John Lentz

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### Children and Youth Ministries

On June 14 we celebrated all of our wonderful teachers, leaders, mentors, and shepherds who have given their gifts of time and teaching to our children as they learn of our faith. These programs are successful because of their dedication, energy and commitment to our children. Thank you.

#### Please excuse our dust!

This summer the crib/nursery room will be in the process of a renovation. Noah's Ark will lead the theme as the nursery is transformed and updated. This project is funded by the Proudfit Memorial in memory of Thelma Proudfit. More details throughout the summer!

During the summer months there will be child care for infants through five year olds. Infants and toddlers will be in room 207 and the pre-school children will be in room 206. Child care will be available every Sunday 9:30-11:30. Child care will also be available at 8:45 for the summer Adult Education series (June 14 – July 19). If you would like to help out in our nursery please contact the church office.

Our Summer Pathways program is for rising first graders through rising sixth graders. The children will learn about and focus on great people of faith who made a difference in the lives of others in our world. They will participate in six workshops that will explore this theme: art, cooking, large muscle games, storytelling, music and video. **Summer Pathways dates are June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19, August 2 & 16.** Workshops begin at 10:00; meeting places will be in the Christian Education classrooms. Please check the bulletin for exact location on Summer Pathways Sundays.

We are also offering a summer story time program for 3, 4 & 5 year olds. These children will meet in the Little Explorers classroom (Rm. 206) for a story, a craft and a snack on the same Sundays as the Summer Pathways program. We encourage all families to "check out" our Children's Library located downstairs in the Monticello wing.

On non-Pathways Sundays children in grades 1-6 are encouraged to sit with their families during worship. There will be a basket of quiet activities in the sanctuary for children to use; a library cart with many kinds of books will also be available outside the sanctuary.

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I invite you to consider becoming involved in any of our Christian education programs. There are many ways to help out: hold a baby for an hour, read a story to 3 and 4 year olds, help choose curriculum, be part of an adult core team for our youth groups, be a youth leader, offer your home for youth Bible studies, work with computers. ....The experience is rewarding and satisfying. For more information, please contact Liz Wollaeger at 216-321-2660 (church), 440-498-0474 (home), or email ([lizw@fhcpresb.org](mailto:lizw@fhcpresb.org)).

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger                      Director of Christian Education

Retirement is a new idea for me. Being a part of Forest Hill Church these past 18 years has been a very important part of my life. I have seen many changes over this time - staff, programs, building, and mission. I'll miss the staff and volunteers, the work environment, all the laughter, the babies and the many friendships.

What's next? I'll be able to spend more time with my grandson Quinn. A new grandchild is due in November so that will keep life interesting. I'll be able to become more involved and more a part of my home church, Church of the Redeemer UMC.

Thank you for the past eighteen years, and God bless.

Marge Kaercher

## Music

Many thanks to our guest music leaders covering for me during my summer travels: Amanda Powell (June 21), Craig McGaughey (June 28), Carmen Massaro (July 12), and Amanda Powell (August 2). From June 19<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be worshipping in the lovely hills of Asheville, North Carolina at the Montreat Retreat Center, where I am serving on the faculty of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Music and Worship Conference. This conference draws around 2,000 people each week, for two weeks. Around 200 hundred of them are middle school children and I am their taskmaster for the conference (Wish me luck! Send prayers!). I'll also be teaching a daily Piano in Worship Class. For sure, I will come back with innovative ideas for FHC music, as Montreat is a hotbed of creative worship experiences.

The Organ Historical Society is having its national convention in Cleveland the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>, and I will be presenting a recital for them on July 8<sup>th</sup>. It's good to keep up my "chops," but hard to practice the organ in the summer heat – your legs stick to the bench!

Have you sung in the Summer Choir yet? This group is not just for regular choir members—it's also for singers who can't commit to the regular Thursday evening rehearsals during the year. A half-hour rehearsal is held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the downstairs choir room. The music is easy to learn (unison or two parts), and children (even babes in arms) are most welcome to sit with you. It's so nice to see new faces trying out the choral experience. Summer Choir continues through July. Anyone wishing to offer his/her vocal or instrumental gifts during August, please let me know.

I hope you will consider joining a choir when the fall season begins in September. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we cannot with our minds. The Greeks believed that music is the study of invisible relationships between internal objects. I'm not quite sure what that means, but it rings true!

Best wishes for a safe, restorative summer.

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson, Organist/Director of Music  
216-371-9508    [annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org)

<b>Sundays in July and August</b>	
<b>8:45</b>	<b>Child care begins</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Summer Adult Ed: Bible Study; Book Discussion (Aug)</b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Summer Choir (July)</b> <b>Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Worship</b> <b>Summer Pathways and Children's Story Time</b> <b>(July 5, 19; August 2, 16)</b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

<b>Sunday, July 5</b> <b>2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10;</b> <b>Mark 6: 1-13</b>	
<b>Sunday, July 12</b>	<b>2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24</b> <b>Ephesians 1: 3-14; Mark 6: 14-29</b> 6:00 Softball: Team B vs Church of the Redeemer Team A vs St Ann Parish
<b>Sunday, July 19</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7: 1-14a; Psalm 89: 20-37</b> <b>Ephesians 2: 11-22; Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56</b> 11:15 Blood Pressure check
<b>Sunday, July 26</b> <b>2 Samuel 11: 1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3: 14-21; John 6: 1-21</b>	
<b>Sunday, August 2</b> <b>2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a; Psalm 51: 1-13; Ephesians 4: 1-16</b> <b>John 6: 24-35</b>	
<b>Sunday, August 9</b> <b>2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25 – 5: 2</b> <b>John 6: 35, 41-51</b>	
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14; Psalm 111</b> <b>Ephesians 5: 15-20, John 6: 51-58</b> 11:15 Blood Pressure check
<b>Sunday, August 23</b> <b>1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6: 10-20</b> <b>John 6: 56-69</b>	
<b>Sunday, August 30</b> <b>Song of Solomon 2: 8-13; Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9; James 1: 17-27</b> <b>Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23</b>	

## **Interfaith Hospitality Network Guests Staying at FHC August 16-23**

Our ministry with the homeless continues during the week of August 16 when we will host our next group of families at the Church through the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Families we are asked to house generally are mothers with small children. IHN counsels them during the day on defining their path to re-homing and self-sufficiency. All we are asked to do is provide a bit of hospitality – a meal, a bed, and a smile.

Please consider helping for part of an evening that week by preparing and serving an evening meal, supervising activities for children and youth, or staying overnight in the Education wing. We also need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up, laundry, and planning. Sign-ups for the week will begin Sunday, July 26 after worship.

Forest Hill Church will also be an IHN host site for the week of November 29 in 2009. For information or to volunteer, please contact Julie Lusic (216-371-2084, [jlusic@gmail.com](mailto:jlusic@gmail.com)), or any other member of the Ministry of Justice & Mission.

## **The Picture Directory**

We are well on our way to completing the directory. Thank you to the many people who worked so hard to make this happen. We completed our final round of picture taking June 8, 9, and 10. Thank you to the people who cheerfully greeted people and made phone calls: Dene Young, Nancy Burcham, Joy Stang, Janet Kickel, Mark Waring, Karen Loughridge, Marilyn Wilk, and Ron Register.

A very special thank you goes to Kris Fay who put everything together to prepare our directory for printing. Without her time and talents this project would not have been completed.

We look forward to the delivery of the finished Directory at the Fall Festival in September.

Deacon Cathy Ghiandoni

### *From the Deacons*

While summer is almost here, school is out and vacations begin, Forest Hill Church doesn't shut down, nor does the need to help and support our members through the Deacon CARE Group system. The CARE Groups are set up to help with meals during a family's time of need, visits to our shut-ins and the myriad other things we do for each other as members of the Forest Hill family. If you are the one in need, let us know; if you know of someone who has a need, contact the church office or one of the Deacons.

Mark your calendars for the September 13<sup>th</sup> Festival of New Beginnings – this year's theme is "The Love Boat." You will be greeted aboard the S.S. Forest Hill by Captain John "Stubbing" and Cruise Director "Julie" Beal. Come to church wearing your finest tropical wear, eat some delicious cuisine, and enjoy the fun events.

Deacon Cindy Newton

### **BOULEVARD SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION**

When you first read this, "Back to School" will likely be pretty far from your thoughts – or those of the students of Boulevard Elementary School in Cleveland Heights. But over the next month or so, please consider buying some school supplies to assure that all the kids at our neighborhood schoolhouse will start the year well-equipped. We'll be collecting these in Fellowship Hall during August. A more specific list of items needed will be posted on the Justice & Mission kiosk and can be found here as well:

back packs	glue sticks
flash cards	rulers
rulers	3 ring notebooks
scissors-kid size	notebook paper
big pink erasers	folders
fat and thin markers	basic set of colored pencils
glue	crayons
	pencils

Elder Dick Obermanns

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## Ministry of Stewardship News

I'll start with a prayer from The Book of Common Prayer (1549):

"We give you thanks most gracious God, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your name, now and forever." Amen

This prayer reminds us that as far back as 1549, and even earlier, Christians were aware of and appreciated the wondrous natural creations God created for us. This prayer is a fine example of early Christian environmental concerns. From awareness comes appreciation and from appreciation comes stewardship. Over the last several months the Stewardship Ministry has explored the daily workings of Forest Hill Church (FHC) and an action plan has been created with the goals of increasing energy efficiency and improving our environment. One area of focus has been the cleaning supplies the church uses on a daily basis. With the help of Christina Hideck and her knowledge of natural and green cleaning products, the Stewardship Ministry is working to change the cleaning products at FHC to less toxic, more environmentally sound cleaners that are more efficient and less expensive. Based on our preliminary calculations this change could save FHC several thousand dollars a year in cleaning costs. If this plan is accepted it will be a win-win for the church and our environment.

Our main purpose on earth is to honor God as creator.....and I hope that we honor God and his creations in such a way that environmental stewardship is part of everything we do. Looking at the world with a "green lens" is an excellent way to honor His creation. Approaching life bespectacled with green lenses builds praise into each and every day. On the FHC website ([www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)) look for a section on the environment and how you personally and as a congregation we can improve the world around us and praise God's creation.

As we move into the late summer and fall months, the Stewardship Ministry will be addressing personal financial health with a series of lectures. Stay tuned!

Jonathan House  
Elected Leader, Stewardship Ministry

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## News of Our Church Family

### Baptisms

**Alexander Jack Bell**, son of Scott Bell and Amy Loyer-Bell, was baptized June 14, 2009. Dave Bell was the attending Elder. Alex is the grandson of Dave and Chris Bell and the nephew of Bethany and Mark Bell.

### Marriages

**Kevin Ball and Brittani Osenga** were married at Forest Hill Church on May 29, 2009. Dr. Lentz officiated.

**Lindsey Burdette and Robert Lowe** were married June 13, 2009.

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 Jordan CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during July. 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:

Marilyn Wilk, Deacon and Leader	Diana and Ted Woodbridge
Robin Allen-Palmore and family	the Heineman family
Betsy and Joe Andrews	Colleen and Christian Hunter
Chessie Bleik	Carl Jenks
the Cosgrove family	Carson and Mary Jean Kent
Sally Davis	Ellen McChesney
Ralph and Kathy Dise and family	Mary McMillan
Kaye Gardiner	Jon Newton
Ron and Marcia Grant	Frank Ragone
Grace Uhle	Linda Rainey
Becky and Brian West and family	the Schellenberg family
Tori Weisberg and family	Jim and Pat Seeders
	Dalma Takacs

In August, the Deacons will join together as the monthly CARE group.

### Ushers for July

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

### Ushers for August

Roger Heineman, Lead Usher; Robyn Hales, Paula Harvey, Tom Harvey, Jason Hidek, Diane McFiggen, Tom McFiggen, Dick Peterjohn (assistant lead), Chuck Smith, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

We bid farewell to Sam Manu, retiring at the end of June as Head Usher, and to Audrey Kellermeyer, Nancy Crawford and Johanna Wilcott who are also stepping down from usher duties. Thank you for all your many Sundays on duty!

### Yoga



Classes begin Wednesday, June 17 through Aug. 5, 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
\$10 per class; drop-ins are welcome.  
Beginners welcome!

**The Group** (singles and couples 50 – 70) Hear the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom performing Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz*, Mussorgsky/Ravel's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2*. Bring a picnic supper to eat on the lawn at 6:30 p.m.; concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$13, good for the lawn OR the new General Admission area of the Pavilion (on a first-come, first-serve basis). RSVP to Kathy or Derry Stauffer: 216-381-6599 or [khannas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:khannas@sbcglobal.net).

## Office News and Reminders

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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: August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9.

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
- ❖ 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.

From the Financial office: Pledge contributions and other income

	<b>May 09</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Actual	\$ 82,736	\$ 313,470
Budget	50,044	289,820

Source: May 09 Activity Statements and 09 Budget

**Did you know that your monthly or weekly donation to FHC  
can be paid on-line with your other regular payments?  
It's free, easy, and convenient!**