

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

May 2010

"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets
so that a runner may read it."
Habakkuk 2.2b

"There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord."
(Hymn #498 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit")

Over ten years ago the Session went on a retreat to re-write the mission statement of the church. "What words describe who we are and what we want to be about?" was the question that was raised. The discussion resulted in a vision and value statement that was shaped around three key words: Discover, Celebrate, and Witness. These words are written above the dividing wall in Fellowship Hall. The mission of FHC is to help everyone who enters the door to:

- "discover" who they are as beloved children of God and deepen faith,
- "celebrate" the multitude of gifts that the Spirit has distributed among us and enjoy each other's company in fellowship and,
- "witness" to the transforming and powerful love of Jesus Christ in worship within the walls and in mission beyond the walls.

It was affirming that our guest preacher of several weeks ago, Rev. Dean Myers, complimented us on these words and commended us for living into them. Nevertheless, a church (indeed any institution) needs to revisit its vision and value statement about every 2-3 years. Are the words still descriptive? Do we still use them to shape our life together? Does a majority of the congregation know the vision and value statement?

While I believe these words continue to describe us and that most, if not all, of our programs and missions reflect these positive faithful words, I do not think that most members know them. Furthermore, the Session does not use them consciously to direct its work.

Therefore, the current Session is going through a positive process of reflection and discernment about a new statement. I am looking forward to seeing what the small writing group comes up with. Certainly whatever is written will be shared with you.

In the future each ministry will be asked to reflect upon how their work helps move the mission. Our Church Growth committee is looking into a new logo and marketing process. No doubt a fresh articulation of who we are and who we want to be will help their creativity.

As the prophet Habbakuk wrote long ago, the vision should be able to be read by someone running (or in the 21st C. driving) by – hence our new statement should be brief and bold and understandable by the passer-by.

I believe more so then ever that Forest Hill Church is on the cusp of growth and that our future on the corner of Monticello and Lee is bright. I see more children than ever, more young adults than ever, more visitors than ever. We have raised over \$550,000 for our building restoration campaign. We have welcomed a dozen new members into the church. At every Presbytery meeting Forest Hill Church is celebrated in some way as a leading congregation. Indeed there is a "sweet, sweet Spirit in this place!"

Together we do great things and I am very grateful to you and to God.

Faithfully yours,

John Lentz



Dear friends,

It was an honor to have Dr. Walter Brueggemann with us on April 18 to discuss with clergy and church leaders from all over the city the important call God has given us to be the church at a challenging time in history.

In addition to being a preeminent biblical scholar, Dr. Brueggemann is also a pastor. He has published collections of his exquisite prayers. Here he reminds us that God has chosen us, folks like you and me, to be God's agents in the world.

Blessings, Clover

Kingdoms rage...and we are called

Kingdoms rage;
Empires tremble;
cities totter.

You speak assurance;
You designate human agents;
You say, "This is my beloved son";
You say, "This is my anointed."

Right in the middle of chaos,
You designate human agents who do your will.
And we are not sure:

We would rather it were you,
directly
straight on and visible.

But you stay hidden in your holy splendor,
And we are left with human agents
About whom we are never sure.

So we name Jesus, "son of David";
So human and frail, even if kicked upstairs;
So vulnerable, even if transformed in song and creed.

And then, in a flash, it may dawn on us:
You call and designate people like us, your agents.

Kingdoms rage...and we are called.
Empires tremble...and we are designated.
Cities totter...and we are summoned...

Like the first David, like the second David...
Us, vulnerable, frail, anxious, your people.
And we are dazzled. AMEN.

On reading Samuel / October 3, 2001
From *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*
Edited by Edwin Searcy

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Bible and Bagels

Every Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

"Bible and Bagels" started as a Lenten small group bible study several years ago. Bible and Bagels is still going strong through every liturgical season no matter the weather. On Wednesday mornings from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m., a core group of 8 (but often as many as 14) gather to share coffee and bagels AND study one of the lectionary Bible passages for the coming Sunday. There is little preparation expected. The group reads the passage aloud, Pastor John usually offers 5 minutes of introductory context, and then open conversation and discussion follow. The group ends with the question: "How will this passage shape your life today?" and we close with prayer and the Lord's prayer. All are welcome. Come and visit once or make it part of your spiritual discipline. You won't be sorry!

John Lentz



Christian Education Children and Youth Ministries

In April our children and youth explored the mysteries of the events from Easter to Pentecost. Thank you to all the leaders, teachers, and shepherds who gave their time and gifts this month.

- In our nursery, thank you to Lisa Higgs, Ron Register, Christina Hidek, and Jill Roberts.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Becky West and Diana Johannessen.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Christina & Jason Hidek.
- Thank you to Carl Jenks for his help in creating the Last Supper pictures.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Sue Lafferty, Amy & Chris Davis, Carol Leslie, Todd Webster & Vikki Nowak, Lora Smith, Barb Cloud, and Alisha Trammell.
- During Descant Choir Activity time, thank you to Tori Weisberg, Consuelo & Roger Heineman, Alisha & Mark Trammell, Shelley & Jack Jesberger, Todd Webster, and Laurie & Eric Muller- Girard.
- In our Youth Education class, thank you to Jennifer Blakeney, Mark Chupp, for leading the discussions, and to their guests: Dick Obermanns, Robyn Hales, Candace Hoke, Scott Lafferty, Kermit Lind, Grace Uhle, and Diana Woodbridge.

Children's Ministry

Little Explorers (3/4 year olds) and **Children in Worship** (older 4 year olds and kindergarten)

In the month of May, the children in these programs will be participating in stories about Jesus' resurrection and the ministries of Peter and Paul. Each story has a response project to help the children better understand the story. Be sure to ask your children what they made and did in their church school class

Pathways to the Promise Land (grades 1-5)

The last rotation for this program year focuses on the *Witness to God's Presence*. The faith stories of men and women from 2000-5000 years ago have been recorded in the Bible. Even today, God call us to be witnesses of God's presence, acting as the eyes, ears, feet and hands of God on earth. The children will explore this theme in movement, story and art.

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Youth Christian Education

As part of my Christian Educator certification process, I will be leading the youth church school during May. The focus will be *Who Is Jesus?* In each lesson the youth will be participating in activities that concentrate on four questions from the *Presbyterian Study Catechism* about Jesus by connecting the question with the Bible and the creeds and confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This class meets at 9:30-10:30 in the Koinonia Room and is open to youth in grades 6-12.

Dates to Know

May 2 The Lord's Supper

Pathways children, in grades 1-5, will begin in their workshops at 11:00, and then join their families for communion.

May 9 Gathering Time

Pathways children will begin in the Chapel for Gathering Time at 11:00, and then be dismissed to their workshops with the shepherds.

May 23 Pentecost: Last day of classes

Pathways children will begin in their workshops at 11:00, and then join their families for communion.

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education

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Music



I hope to see everyone at the annual **MAY CABARET** which will take place on Sunday, May 2, beginning with a Morag Keefe-prepared supper (yum!) at 6:15 p.m. and continuing with our family-friendly, intergenerational variety show at 7:00 p.m. Some highlights this year include:

- a special appearance by the award-winning Heights Barbershop Group
- the Descant Choir's singing of *Consider Yourself* and the *Fast Food Song* (presented with a disclaimer not to eat at fast food joints, of course)
- a yo-yo competition
- the Bashful Bellringer piece (starring Frank Ragone in the title role)
- the much loved Male Ballet.

On May 23 the Holy Spirit will come rushing through the sanctuary with kites, improvisation, and surprises! That's Pentecost Sunday, and we'll celebrate communion that morning.

Sunday, May 30 will be the last 11:00 a.m. service of the program year. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. from June 6 – September 6. The Summer/Family Choir will lead music during June and July. All ages are welcome in this Sunday morning group, even children and babes in arms. There is a brief rehearsal from 9:30 to 9:55 a.m. in the downstairs choir room. Give it a try—it's fun to experience worship from "the other side!"

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
Organist/Director of Music
annew@fhcpres.org
216-371-9508

Sustainable Heights

On Friday, April 30 from 1 to 5 p.m., over 50 key leaders of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, including the mayors of both cities and representatives from Congresswoman Marcia Fudge's office, will gather in the Fellowship Hall to:

- celebrate ways in which the Heights communities are already practicing sustainable living
- network and form a healthy, positive agenda for the future
- organize a larger meeting in the fall for leaders from all the inner ring East Side communities.

The event is a culmination of the work of a small group led by Mark Chupp and John Lentz from FHC.



Both Mark and John attended the Sustainable Cleveland 2019 event last summer hosted by Cleveland's Mayor, Frank Jackson.

Our church has much to celebrate: we recycle, we have changed all the ballasts and light bulbs to energy efficient and cost saving products, we use green cleaning products. Furthermore, FHC has been recognized for its Abundance Acre community garden, and this summer we will have many "Ride your Bike to Worship" Sundays. Dave Neff and Diana Johannessen are calling for the formation of a Forest Hill Church "Green Team" to advocate, educate and encourage one and all to be thoughtful about how we live.

John Lentz

Deacons' Corner

Pages 10 -11: May Calendar

Spring is upon us and our thoughts and eyes turn to the beautiful flowers all around us. The Deacons deliver flowers that are donated from Sunday services to FHC members and family who might need some cheer or celebration of life. This past Easter the Deacons delivered 25 lilies to friends and family of Forest Hill Church. Thank you to all who donated the flowers so these people could be included in our celebration of Easter Sunday.

Each Sunday we are graced with flowers in our sanctuary. Some families choose to take the flowers home with them to enjoy; sometimes the flowers are donated so they can bring cheer to someone in need. If you know of a person who would enjoy the flowers from our Sunday services please let the Deacon for the month know. The Deacon of the Month is listed in your weekly bulletin and on the Deacon bulletin board in the hall.

The Deacons would like to thank Hazel Grant for her long time service to our flower ministry. She has been invaluable to the Deacons for her awareness of the congregation's needs and delivery of our Sunday flowers.



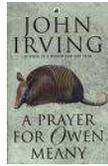
Cathy Ghiandoni,
Deacon

Sundays in May	
9:30 Adult Ed Youth Ed Descant Choir (gr. 1-5) Child care begins 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 Worship Little Explorers (3s, 4s) Children in Worship (older 4s, K) 11:00 Pathways (gr. 1-5) (11:15 on May 16) 12:15 Coffee Hour 5:00 MOB: Sr High (not May 30) Lectio Divina	Classes and children's activities end May 23 The summer schedule begins June 6

May 2: 5 Easter 9:00 Parenting class 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:15 Teacher training 6:15 May Cabaret	Acts 11: 1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35
May 9: 6 Easter 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir	Acts 16: 9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5 John 14: 23-29
May 16: 7 Easter 12:15 Blood pressure check Ice Cream Social fund-raiser	Acts 16: 16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17: 20-26
May 23: Day of Pentecost TOWER distribution LAST DAY FOR ALL CLASSES 11:00 Worship: Communion	Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b Romans 8: 14-17 John 14: 8-17
May 30: Trinity Sunday LAST SUNDAY OF REGULAR SCHEDULE	Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15

**The summer schedule begins June 6.
Worship will be at 10 a.m.**

Books That Have Changed Your Life



At a recent meeting of Bible and Bagels, Keith Logan told us that John Irving's ***A Prayer for Owen Meany*** changed his life. There was something about that story and the character of Owen that opened up a new perspective for him. The reading of that book coincided with the Logans coming to Forest Hill Church.

I clearly remember reading "Revelation," a short story by Flannery O'Connor, in a Yale Divinity School class that "blew me away!" Its radical view of grace and redemption has shaped me to this day.

What about you? Let the office know what book has been life changing to you, and we will create a "Books That Have Changed Your Life" corner in the Cameron Library.

John Lentz

Spring Work Day

The Spring Work Day will be May 1 from 9 – 12. We will serve lunch. Jobs to be done include: take down plexiglass storm windows; rake and clean up debris from property, including the front entrance; trim bushes and trees where needed, including around front signage; clean out garden beds; other minor cleaning, painting, and touch-up as needed. Depending on the drainage work status, we may also try to clean the playground equipment and re-prepare the garden beds.

News of Our Church Family

Births

Delaney James Ishler, daughter of Kevin and Sarah Ishler, was born March 14, 2010. Delaney is the sister of Emily and Maddox, the granddaughter of Chuck and Jane Ishler, and the niece of Karen and Steve Parker.

New members who joined FHC on March 21, 2010

Carole Boyd caroleboyd@yahoo.com
2229 Delaware Dr. 216-210-9008
Cleve. Hts OH 44106

Jack & Mary Ann Breisch mabinc@sbcglobal.net
110 Laurel Rd 440-247-5599
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Barbara Caldwell B three25Bk@att.net
Cyndi Caldwell C thethirdofmarch@att.net
1300 W. 9th St, #638 216-623-1033
Cleve OH 44113

Jinny Colville 216-681-9035
16225 Glynn Rd
Cleve OH 44112

Wafa Kuri 330-678-1739
2243 Edgehill Rd
Cleve. Hts. OH 44106

Vincent Taylor vtaylor747@aol.com
2410 Woodmere Dr 216-297-5660
Cleve Hts OH 44106

Kimble & Sandy True truefam4@adelphia.net
2851 Edgehill Rd 216-371-2009
Cleve Hts OH 44118

Dorothy Turick 216-381-3823
3938 Delmore Rd
Cleve Hts OH 44121

New Contact Information

Emma Jane Gibbs (after May 14)
Westlake Village
28575 Westlake Village Dr., Bldg A #120
Westlake, OH 44145

New emails only

Daryl Musick darylmusick@att.net

Kaye Gardiner kgardiner@roadrunner.com

Care Group

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

Members of the Eden CARE Group are:

Mary Ball, Deacon leader	Bob & Pat Jeffreys
Doris Allen	Sue & Scott Lafferty
Clover, Tim, Seth & Sophie Beal	Jane Little
Dave & Chris Bell	Peg & Steve Marunowski
Colleen Bloom and family	Clayton & Julie Minder
Jean and Scott Duncan	Ron Polderman & Carol Smith
Jeff Dyck & Lara Troyer	Bob & Peggy Seher
Kris & Bill Fay	Elizabeth Shaw
Shirley Gallagher	Jeff & Anne Smith
Hazel Grant	Elaine Tapié
Mary Hill, Evan & Emily Tuttle	Elaine Turley & Jordan Shoger
Heather & Jon House	Paul & Katie Weissbrod

Ushers for May

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

Lectio Divina: from Jennifer Blakeney

Interested in increasing your prayer life? Hearing what the Bible is saying to you in your life? I am offering to facilitate Lectio Divina during the month of May. Watch for details in the bulletin, and call Jennifer for more information (216-481-9844).

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s)

The Group's May event has been cancelled – watch for information about a rescheduled activity.

Hilltoppers (retired singles and couples)

Save May 14 for the Hilltoppers' Annual Dinner! Watch for details.

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s – 50s)

Pacesetters will have a Progressive Dinner on May 22, 2010, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

(What is a progressive dinner? It's a way to get to visit with new/old friends – eat good food – enhance our wellness by walking between the homes with one course at each of three houses).

The schedule:

6:30 pm Appetizers at Marunowskis'
1084 Dorsh Rd. South Euclid, OH
7:15 pm Walk to Oberys'
7:30 pm Dinner at Oberys' – 1199 Berwick Lane, South Euclid, OH
8:30 pm Walk to Weissbrods'
8:45 pm Dessert at Weissbrods'
1104 Dorsh Rd. South Euclid, OH

RSVP and receive your food assignment by Wednesday May 19th by email or phone to Melody or Linn Obery @ obery@sbcglobal.net or 216-291-8323. We will have soft drinks – please BYOOB (bring your own other beverages)!

Iris Circle (all women of the church)

Iris Circle invites the women of Forest Hill Church to a Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 18 at the home of Carolyn Vrtunski, 24050 Hazelmere in Shaker Heights. We will be inspired after dinner by the Rev. Clover Beal engaging us in a Bible Study. For directions or questions please contact Carolyn at 216 752-7131 or carolynvrtunski@yahoo.com.

Office News and Reminders

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is every Wednesday morning.

The deadline for the **TOWER** is as follows: **7 a.m.** on May 14, June 18 (for the July-August edition), August 20. **Note that the due dates are later. We will be distributing TOWERS in Fellowship Hall on the 4th weekend of the month; we will mail only those that don't get picked up. The TOWER will be posted on the website the weekend it is available for pick-up.**

Emails and extensions for the staff are as follows:

- ❖ John Lentz, pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org, ext. 200
- ❖ Clover Beal, pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org, ext 201
- ❖ Anne Wilson (music), annew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208
- ❖ CE Office: Liz Wollaeger, lizw@fhcpresb.org, ext. 206
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial office): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203
- ❖ Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

Our website is 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.

Both the bulletin and the **TOWER** may be found on our website. Please contact the office if you would like to discontinue your printed copy of the **TOWER** and ONLY read it on line.

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.

**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!**

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Pentecost

To make things new that never were

We name you wind, power, force, and then,
imaginatively, "Third Person."

We name you and you blow...

blow hard,
blow cold,
blow hot,
blow strong,
blow gentle,
blow new...

Blowing the world out of nothing to abundance,
blowing the church out of despair to new life,
blowing little David from shepherd boy to messiah,
blowing to make things new that never were.

So blow this day, wind,
Blow here and there, power,
Blow even us, force,

Rush us beyond ourselves,
Rush us beyond our hopes, Rush us beyond our fears, until we
enact your newness in the world.

Come, come spirit. Amen.

On reading 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 / April 13, 2000
From *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Breuggemann*
Edited by Edwin Searcy

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