

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

January 2011

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy the season of Christmas, which starts on December 25th and lasts until Epiphany on January 6th. It is the twelve days from Christmas to the arrival of the Magi that are celebrated in the well known seasonal song "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Only the writer of the Gospel of Matthew reports the visit of the so-called "wise men." The New Oxford Annotated Bible notes that "wise men" is from the Greek *magoi* - the name given to "literate, political officials in the courts of Parthia, Armenia or regions east of Judea. Foreign regimes often sent emissaries to greet and give gifts to new kings or rulers. The visit highlights the conflict between the king of Israel chosen by God, Jesus, and the king of Israel chosen by the Romans, Herod."

I have always been struck by the last verse of the story. Matthew writes: "And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." (Matt. 2:12) On one level the meaning is quite plain; they took the alternative route (given by the 1st century Mapquest?) to get home.

However, on another level, I believe that Matthew is suggesting something deeper and richer. Having seen Jesus, these wise men would never be the same. Having looked at the face of God they would now take, using the words of Robert Frost the "road less travelled." Another poet, T.S. Eliot, used this narrative in Matthew as inspiration for his poem "Journey of the Magi." One of the wise men is reflecting upon what his encounter with the baby Jesus meant to him. T.S. Eliot writes:

We returned to our places, these kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here,
In the old dispensations
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

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My hope is that as you "return" from Christmas to your old, normal routines you, like the wise man, will also sense a restlessness within. Perhaps you too will choose to travel along a different route. Maybe your encounter with Jesus in the manger makes you look around at the culture we live in and all the "gods" that we clutch and want something new.

Happy New Year and may your journey be filled with surprises of new revelations!



John

Inside the January Tower

From the Pastor.....	1
The Clover Patch	3
Children and Youth Ministries	4
Music Notes.....	7
MOB: Forest Hill Youth Ministry	9
Holy Conversation	10
Deacons' Corner	11
Justice and Mission News	12
January 2011 Calendar	14
Sundays in January.....	16
The Kerygma Challenge Continues	17
Office News and Reminders	18
Got Taggies?.....	20
News of Our Church Family	22
Social Groups and Circles.....	23
Nominees for Office, 2011	24

Christmas at FHC

- December 19: Worship: Festival of Lessons and Carols
MOB: Christmas Party, 6 – 8 p.m. (Lentzes')
- December 20: Christmas in a Minor Key, 7 p.m.
- December 24: Family Christmas Eve Worship, 5 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship, 11 p.m. (music begins at 10:45), followed by milk and cookies
- December 26: Worship in Fellowship Hall, 11 a.m.

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Dear friends,

My college roommate used to say to herself and others: "Don't live in a world of regret." She would use this expression in response to the most mundane choices such as ordering the wrong item on the menu and being disappointed once it arrived, to the serious nature of regret over one's action or inaction. She'd say, "Forgive yourself. Apologize. Then, leave the world of regret." This pearl of wisdom sticks with me and reminds me to let go of my own regrets, the ones that have a tendency to haunt and linger in the shadows. What better time than a new year to start anew? Enough is enough, I believe God says to us. This poem, "Regret," was given to me a few of months ago, and I find it apropos.

Blessings be yours for a season of beginnings and peace,

Clover

Regret by Lawrence Raab

Every day there's something old
to feel sorry about—
what I should have done and didn't,
or what I did, and kept on doing.

I want to believe
everyone's forgotten by now.
Then I picture them thinking back.

And those who've died
and earned the wisdom death allows
just shake their heads and sigh.
"Very funny," my father would say

after my sister and I played
some cruel little joke on him.
"Ha, ha," he'd add,
to let us know he got the point.

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We want to forget
until we start to forget.
We want the past to change,
and we want it back.

"Enough is enough,"
my father used to say
to tell us it was over.

"Regret" by Lawrence Raab,
from ***The History of Forgetting***

Children and Youth Ministries

The busy month of December led the children and youth to explore Advent and Christmas season. The children explored messengers of the Covenant, created crafts in our annual Advent Workshop, focused on peacemaking and hope, and discovered the similarities and differences in the Christmas Gospel stories. Thank you all who were apart of these classes.

- In our Nursery, thank you to Brooke Marcy, Ron Register and Beth Feroe.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Diana & Martin Johannessen and Joanne & Dan Shaner.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Christina & Jason Hidek.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land program, thank you to Vikki Nowak, Robin Mervine, Cathy Ghiandoni, and Cindy Newton.
- In our Trailblazers program, thank you to Tori Weisberg
- In our Senior High Church School, thank you to Kristen Sloan.

Thank you to Beth Zych for her time and vision as our director in our 2010 Family Christmas Eve pageant. It promises to be a huge success!

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Children's Christian Education

Little Explorers (three/four year olds) and **Children in Worship** (older 4s and kindergarten)

In January the children in these programs will be exploring and participating in stories about Jesus' early life and his baptism. Be sure to ask your children what the story was about and share the response craft with them. Susanne Peterjohn will be leading in the *Little Explorers* class and Sara & Matt Winters and Christina & Jason Hidek will be leading *Children in Worship*.

Pathways to the Promise Land (grades 1-5)

Our rotation style church school begins the New Year with the story the story of the *Good Samaritan*. This story is a model story for us in our understanding of the Covenant. Each one of us must consider what our response is to the victims of our world. Are we the self-righteous priests or the Samaritan who is living according to the rules of the Covenant? We must be aware that all people are our neighbors. The children will explore this theme in story-telling, art, service opportunity and drama.

Youth Christian Education

Trailblazers (grades 6-7)

The youth in this program will be exploring Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. They will consider why Jesus had to die and how the resurrection is the affirmation that death is not an end, but a beginning. This group meets in the MOB room from 9:30-10:30.

Senior High Church School (grades 9-12)

Our Senior High youth will be participating in activities and discussions that will explore the concept of unity in the letter of to the Ephesians 4:1-6. The discussions will focus them to discover a calling for their Youth Group. They will consider actions that will foster and honor unity within the group. This group meets in the Koinonia Room from 9:30-10:30.

Confirmation

Beginning this month the Christian Education committee is offering a 16 week course of study for youth interested in becoming members of our church. Six youth and their Covenant Partners will exploring what Confirmation means and what it means to say "Yes" to our faith. Please keep these seekers in your prayers.

Check out the website www.fhcpresb.org see what's new! 5

Dates to Know

- January 2 No church school classes
January 9 Confirmation classes begins
Confirmation brunch for Confirmands, their families and Covenant Partners after worship
January 9 Gathering Time – Pathways to the Promise Land children begin in the Chapel at 11:00 then escorted to their workshops with their Shepherds
January 28-29 Confirmation Retreat

CE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Nursery

Where can you:

- Eat animal crackers
- Hold a baby
- Play with blocks
- and listen to the worship service all at the same time?

In our nursery, that's where!

Our nursery is in need of volunteers through the spring months. Please sign up in the nursery or contact the Christian Education office.

Christian Education

Are you looking for a way to get connected in the life of the church?

Consider teaching in one of the Christian Education programs for children and youth.

It is a great way to share your faith and get to know our amazing younger members. Curriculum is teacher friendly and life relevant.

Please contact Liz Wollaeger for more information on how you can enrich your faith as you lead a Sunday School class.

Faithfully,
Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education

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Dear Forest Hill Friends,

I wish you all a blessed New Year--full of happiness, love and a renewed generosity of spirit as we recover from the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

On January 2nd, Epiphany Sunday, we look forward to singing *We Three Kings*, keeping one eye on the hymnal and one on our three kings. Decked out in their beautiful, flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapié), the kings will journey down the aisle, offering their glittering treasures to the Christ Child. We will also celebrate communion that Sunday.

You may have heard rumblings about a new hymnal in the works (yes, it's true!), so I thought you might like some information about it (from the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song):

Why do we need a new hymnal?

The call to "sing to the Lord a new song" resounds through the Bible. In every generation, the people of God are called to claim their song, to bear witness to the new thing that God is doing in the world here and now. A new hymnal will make available a great wealth of new hymns and spiritual songs that have been created since the 1990 hymnal was published. It will also give an opportunity to acquaint worshipers with wonderful resources from Christian communities around the world, and it will give us a chance to review again the great heritage of congregational songs and make sure our roots run deep.

Who will decide what goes into the new hymnal?

Selections will be made by PCOCS, relying on extensive conversation with various constituencies in the denomination, through surveys, focused consultations, and other methods of gathering input and feedback. PCOCS consists of fifteen appointed voting members (two of whom are under the age of twenty-five), the editor (with vote), and three *ex officio* members appointed by the three denominational entities that are charged with responsibility for the hymnal: the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and the Office of Theology and Worship.

How often does the Presbyterian Church produce a new hymnal?

The Presbyterian Church has published a new hymnal roughly every twenty years, or about every generation. Precursors to the forthcoming Presbyterian hymnal include *The Hymnal* (1933), *The Hymnbook* (1955), *The Worshipbook* (1972), and *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, (1990).

The Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song has now been working for two years on the next hymn/song resource for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

What have we done?

- examined almost 4,000 items submitted during our open submission period
- combed the contents of the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal, the 1972 Worshipbook, and the 1955 Hymnbook
- thoroughly examined 19 other hymnals published since the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal
- examined collections of contemporary praise and worship music
- examined collections of songs from Christian communities around the world
- written statements on language and on our theological vision for this project

What's left to do?

- continue sorting through the possibilities
- add to and refine our tentative content list
- organize the material
- develop indexes

When will it be ready?

- content finalized by 2012 General Assembly in Pittsburgh
- new resource to be available Fall 2013

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
216-321-2660
annew@fhcpresb.org

MOB: Forest Hill Youth Ministry

Starting in January of 2011, the times and format for youth group at Forest Hill Church is changing. The Senior High youth will meet weekly on Sundays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Mid High youth will meet weekly on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. There will be no meal served at either time. Check the schedule below for more info on time and schedule! We will kick off both mid high and senior high for 2011 on January 2nd with game night.

Faith on the Small Screen:

This winter, our senior high youth meetings on Sunday nights will focus on Faith on the Small Screen. We will watch some popular television shows such as Glee, Modern Family, and Friday Night Lights. Afterwards, we will spend some time discussing the messages and themes found in these shows and how these messages relate to our lives and living out our faith.

The Mid High youth will continue to study stories of the Old Testament and the implications of these stories for our lives and faith.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday January 8th: Tobogganing at the Metroparks

Mid and Senior High youth are invited to the annual outing to the Chalet Tobogganing area for a night of winter fun. Meet at the church at 5 p.m and bring \$10.

Ski Trip to Peak'n'Peek

The Youth Group will be heading to Peak'n'Peek for a ski trip on February 12th. Mid highs will spend the day skiing and then head home in the early evening. The senior high youth will ski for the day and stay overnight for a night of fun. The Senior Highs will return around lunchtime on Sunday. We also need adult chaperones!

The cost breakdown is:

\$58 Ski Rental & Lift Ticket

\$63 Snowboard Rental & Lift Ticket

\$36 Lift Ticket Only

You MUST sign up with Kristen by January 30th for this trip. Please make check payable to Forest Hill Church. Contact Kristen with any questions.

Forest Hill Youth Schedule

Sunday January 2nd : Game Night: Mid High Youth @ 4-5:30 pm & Senior High Youth @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Saturday January 8th: Tobogganing @ 5 p.m

Sunday January 9th: Mid High Youth @ 4-5:30 p.m. & Senior High Youth @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Sunday January 16th: NO YOUTH GROUP

Sunday January 23rd: Mid High Youth @ 4-5:30 p.m. & Senior High Youth @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Sunday January 30th: Mid High Youth @ 4-5:30 p.m. & Senior High Youth @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Sunday February 6th: Mid High Youth @ 4-5:30 p.m. & Senior High Youth @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Saturday February 12th: Ski Trip to Peak'n'Peek

Kristen Sloan
Director of Youth Ministries

Holy Conversation: Talking about God in Everyday Life

Have you ever wished that you could speak more clearly about your faith to others? Or about what happens here on Sundays – beyond that everybody is so friendly, the music fabulous, and the sermons riveting? Or to describe your belief when it comes to the bible, humility, civility, social justice, love, Jesus?

Have any of you ever wished that you could engage in conversation with your kids about matters of faith – be they adult or still young?

If yes, then you may be interested in a small group led by John Lentz and Keith Logan called Holy Conversation. After a great experience with our first Holy Conversation group this past winter, we will begin again this January 23rd. We meet for 12 Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 p.m., following a curriculum by Richard Peace called ***Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life***. Ask Pastor Lentz or Keith Logan for more details. There are a limited number of spaces so we would love to hear from you soon! Email Keith at: keith.logan@att.net

Elder Keith Logan

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Justice and Mission Notes

DEACONS' CORNER

In December, the Deacons of Forest Hill Church have been reaching out to members of FHC in many ways. The Deacons served Home Communion to homebound members and will deliver poinsettias to Judson, Breckenridge, Laurel Lake, Homewood, and McGregor Home as well as to FHC members who will be cheered by the flowers that will grace our Sanctuary during this beautiful Christmas season. Thank you to all who donated their poinsettias this year.

Starting this New Year, 2011, we want to remind you about our CARE groups. There are currently 10 CARE groups: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Eden, Jordan, Canaan, Corinth, Calvary and Mt. Sinai. Each member of Forest Hill Church is assigned to a CARE group, which is intergenerational and represents various addresses around the Cleveland area. These CARE groups provide a network of short-term support to the congregation with cards, calls, meals and flower delivery. Our CARE groups also warmly welcome and extend friendship to members and guests by greeting, volunteering to serve at Continental Breakfast or Coffee Hour after church. Each CARE group is led by a Deacon and is assigned **one month** a year to volunteer their CARE. Please cheerfully respond during your CARE group's month when a Deacon calls and asks you to help. In fact, get to know which CARE group you are in, and volunteer before you are called!. Check the bulletins, the **TOWER**, and Deacon bulletin board to see which CARE group is responsible for each month.

As members of Forest Hill Church show that you CARE. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you.

Cathy Ghiandoni, Deacon

Support Bread For the World and Heifer International

When you purchase pre-paid grocery cards good at local merchants from Forest Hill Church, you help two outstanding organizations fight hunger in our own country and overseas:

- **Bread for the World** is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond our own community. Most recently, Bread for the World helped pass Federal legislation to improve the quality of school lunches and reduce the number of kids who go hungry. See: www.bread.org .
- **Heifer International** (aka The Heifer Project) raises funds to help poor farm families in developing countries obtain animals so that they can produce meat, milk, eggs, or wool for themselves or for market. Each participating family is obliged to "pay it forward" by helping another family with an animal from their eventual surplus. The Heifer Gift Catalog outlines many giving options for individuals and churches. See: www.heifer.org .

Grocery cards good at Dave's, Giant Eagle, Heinen's, and Zagara's can be purchased in various amounts most Sundays after worship in Fellowship Hall. Participating merchants donate back to Forest Hill Church a portion of the proceeds. The Ministry of Justice & Mission has decided to split these funds between Bread for the World and Heifer International for any grocery cards purchased through January 31. Eat well and help fight hunger at the same time!

Get Involved in the 2011 Homeless Stand Down



The InterAct Cleveland 2011 Homeless Stand Down is a series of events led by our area's religious communities to offer respite, renewal, reconnection and respect to men, women, and families who are currently without their own place to live.

The Homeless Stand Down takes place in the depths of winter. This year's dates are Sunday, January 30th; Saturday, February 12th; and Friday, February 18th. Volunteers will be needed to help dispense warm clothing, grooming and health services, hot meals and care packets to the guests, as well as to pack, set up and clean up for each event. Registration for volunteers is available online at www.interactcleveland.org, where more details on tasks and required training can be found, or by calling 216-241-0230.

Forest Hill Church will again be collecting Personal Care Kits for guests at the Homeless Stand Down. Each kit is a large ziplock plastic bag filled with health, hygiene, and grooming items that can be used by Men or Women living in shelters or on the street. We will post lists of desired items on the Justice & Mission bulletin boards and in The Week Ahead during January.

Elder Dick Obermanns

14-15 calendar

Sundays in January	
Classes and children's choirs will not meet on January 2	
9:00	Child care begins
9:30	Adult education (Kerygma begins Jan. 16)
	Youth education
	Descant Choir
	Confirmation (Jan. 9 – May 15)
10:15	Descant Choir activity
10:30	Continental Breakfast
	Chancel Choir
11:00	WORSHIP
	Children in Worship
	Little Explorers
11:15	Pathways to the Promise Land (gr. 1-5) (11 a.m. on Jan 9)
12:15	Coffee Hour
4:00	MOB: Mid High (Jan. 2, 9, 23, 30)
5:00	Faith Leader
	Holy Conversations (beg. Jan 23)
	Kerygma (beg. Jan. 16)
6:30	MOB: Sr High (Jan. 2, 9, 23, 30)

January 2 No classes 11:00 Worship: Celebration of Epiphany; communion	2 Christmas Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18
January 9 The Baptism of the Lord 12:15 Confirmation brunch Sine Nomine Choir	Isaiah 42: 1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17
January 16 12:15 Lunch and Annual Meeting of the Congregation	Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 40: 1-11 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John 1: 29-42
January 23 11:00 Worship: Ordination and Installation of Officers 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir	Isaiah 9: 1-4 Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 Matthew 4: 12-23
January 30	Micah 6: 1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12

The Kerygma Challenge Continues!

Eight Week Bible Study: January 9 –March 6th

Option I: “Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles”

This time we’ll be studying a book of the Bible. “The Acts of the Apostles is unique in the New Testament. In Acts, Luke gives us a framework in which to understand how the early Christian church developed and grew. Acts is in many ways an extended discussion of the very nature and purpose of the church, not only for the first century, but for all times. During our eight week study, students/ participants will be challenged to take the Christian church, as well their own faith, very seriously.” (Trish Heidebrecht, author of *Kerygma series*) Those who are preparing themselves for the Pilgrimage—In the Footsteps of Paul in Turkey and Greece—are encouraged to join this study.

Resource Book: \$20

Option II: Acts—“Listen with Your Heart”

This Kerygma group will spend time meditating on the scripture readings to see how they speak to us today. We will share personal discoveries in the group, giving the opportunity to learn and grow together with our hearts open to the Word and to each other. We will read the Kerygma Acts of the Apostles course material individually prior to each session to inform and enhance our time together. However, it will not be the focus of our shared time together. Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m., in chapel.

Course Option III: Bible 101: Your Bible! The Study Begins

This seven-week course of study will acquaint you with the Bible in a broad yet concise way. A brief survey of its two main testaments will be necessary to see how the parts are related. This brief study will help you improve your knowledge about the Bible. This is a great study for those who feel the need for a stronger foundation in order to feel more confident in reading *Your Bible!*

January 16-February 27

Resource Book: \$12

Small group registration is happening now!

Contact Pastor Clover Beal (pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org)

or contact the church office: 216-321-2660, office@fhcpresb.org

Please register by January 8

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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 JANUARY 14, FEBRUARY 11, MARCH 11. **We will be distributing TOWERs in The Garden Foyer for two weeks following the due date. The TOWER will be posted on the website as soon as it is available.**

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
- ❖ Youth Director: Kristen Sloan, kristens@fhcpresb.org, ext 207
- ❖ 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 \$25 per arrangement.

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A few tips for writing checks, since we have so many active funds right now –

It is perfectly fine to write one check for several purposes, please just be very sure to write in the memo line how much money is for each fund. This same holds true when writing checks on-line; be sure to add a description like Base Pledge, Building Campaign, Flowers, etc.

That way your gifts will get speedily posted to the correct accounts.

**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!**



On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me
 Twelve drummers drumming
 Eleven pipers piping
 Ten lords a-leaping
 Nine ladies dancing
 Eight maids a-milking
 Seven swans a-swimming
 Six geese a-laying
 Five golden rings!
 Four calling birds
 Three French hens
 Two turtle doves
 And a partridge in a pair tree!

Got Taggies?

The Growth Committee has selected a tagline! In response to our Taggies Contest, over 100 entries were submitted: 16 from a Session sub-committee, 25 from the Growth Committee, and more than 70 from 25 members of the congregation. Thanks to these members who submitted entries:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Doris Bartlett | Cathy Ghiandoni | Derry Stauffer |
| Tim Beal | Christina Hidek | Pat & Ray |
| Chris & Dave Bell | Shelly Jesberger | Weissbrod |
| Doris Brandt | Jill Roberts | Paul Weissbrod |
| Barb Caldwell | Clyde Loughridge | LeAnne West |
| Betty Clark | Kate Monaghan | Ann Williams |
| Mark Chupp | The Muller-Girard | Anne Wilson |
| Kris & Bill Fay | Family | |

Over 30 entries focused on **hospitality and community** with words such as "welcome," "come," "visit," "join," "always open," "fellowship," and "community." Many of these also focused on **discovering and celebrating** God in relationship with phrases such as "find yourself," "discover," "learn," and "explore" along with references to the "way," "journey," and "path." Other welcoming taglines referred to our congregation's commitment to **inclusivity and diversity**, with "many views," "spans the generations," "no boundaries," "always room," and "all one in Christ."

But there were other identifiable themes as well:

- 14 entries used a nature theme to explore our congregation's commitments both to environmental stewardship of God's world and to individual spiritual growth with words such as "grow," "seed," "plant," "grounded," "rooted," "forest" and "tree."
- 13 entries included the word "love"--narrowly beating out "joy" and "rejoice" with 12 entries.
- 11 entries used "change," "progressive," "reform" and "reformation."

Our appreciation for humor expressed itself in several entries, including this one poking gentle fun at our Presbyterian heritage: "Not the Frozen Chosen!" Another fun entry gave a nod to our softball team and our senior pastor's love of baseball: "If Cal Ripken Jr. had played for the Indians HE would have joined FHC."

After reviewing all of the entries and noticing the dominant theme, the Growth Committee searched for the perfect tagline to exemplify the ideals of **welcome and discovery**.

Several came close:

- "God loves you, Come find out why" (Doris Brandt)
- "Visit once, your church forever" (The Muller-Girards)
- "Come as you are; leave changed" (Session sub-committee)

but none seemed exactly right.

One of our favorites, proposed by Doris Brandt, was shelved since it was the famous Life Cereal tagline: "Try it, you'll like it."

And then inspiration struck from an unlikely source. As Pastor Lentz spoke to the new member class, we heard him quote these Bible verses:

When Jesus turned and saw [two men] following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, '...where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' (John 1:38-39)

Who knew that the Biblical version of Life Cereal's "Try it, you'll like it" was under our noses all along?

Those three simple words of Jesus to "**Come and see**" felt exactly right. We liked that it was short, memorable, Biblical, non-judgmental, and unpretentious. "Come" expressed invitation, welcome, inclusion, while "see" echoed our commitment to exploring and discovering our faith, our community, ourselves, and God.

We also discovered that its very simplicity made it versatile--it works as a stand-alone statement *and* as the final line of other sentiments--allowing us to link it with many of the other taglines submitted depending on our needs. We tried it out on our December print ads "*The Star still shines....Come and see*" and on the Christmas banner for our web site's home page "*There's always room for more....Come and see*" and received positive feedback.

The proposed tagline will be presented to the Session at its December meeting and if it meets with their approval, "**Come and see**" will become the official tagline of Forest Hill Church.

Thank you ALL for your input, support and patience!

~ **The Church Growth Committee**

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News of Our Church Family

Births

Brendan Haas West, son of Brian and Becky West, was born November 20, 2010. Brendan joins brothers Charlie and Jude as well as grandparents Sandy Schultz and Walter Schultz; Sandy reports that he was born on the birthday of his great grandmother, Mignon Emily Haas Schultz, who was a member of Forest Hill Church.

Peyton Marie Yoe, daughter of Robert and Julie Ann Yoe, was also born November 20.

Walter John Reed, son of Katie and Al Reed and grandson of Jane and Cliff Kowall, was born October 21.

New Contact Information

Rev. Richard Bloomquist (Dick)

2527 N. Taylor Rd. #4
Cleveland Hts OH 44118
216-382-5611

Care Group

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

Members of the Mt. Sinai CARE Group are:

Janet Kickel, Deacon and leader	Mary Lewis
Allen Ball	Julie & Gary Lustic
Bob & Joanne Bielek	Brooke Marcy and family
Guy Cameron and family	The McCumber family
Betty & Don Clark	Dave & Jane Olson and family
Sue Conant	Joyce Peters
Ralph & Molly Dise	Graham & Roz Peters
Jane Frederick & family	Jim Picht & Rebecca Martin and family
Donna Frey	Matt & Katie Russo and family
Sue Gifford & family	Sara & Randy Shaner
Don & Nancy Grube	Anona Stack
Barb Hansen	Lorian, Ralph & Fran Thomas
Jason & Christine Hidek and family	Ann & Peter Williams
Chuck & Jane Ishler	Betty Woodruff
Nina Klein	Warren & Lois Young

22 Check out the website www.fhcpresb.org see what's new!

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Ralph Dise, Fran and Pat Drake, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Mary Jean Kent, Elizabeth Kosnik, Mary Lewis, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

Chuck Broadhead (Jennifer Blakeney's uncle), Robin Dadusc (requested by Kathryn Himmelsteib), Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Judy (Jennifer Blakeney's neighbor), Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey (Tom and Paula Harvey's family), Matthew Peterson (former FHC clergy), Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother),

Ushers

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

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s): **Super Bowl Party**

The Group will attend the play *Backwards in High Heels* on January 8th at the Bolton Theater. On February 6 we will gather for a Super Bowl party at the home of Hal and Pat Musick (369 W. Glen Eagle, Highland Hts.). For reservations or questions, contact the Musicks (440 442-3592 or halmusick@att.net).

February 6, Musicks', Super Bowl Party

TUFF: The Under Forty Fellowship (singles and couples):

Super Bowl Party

TUFF will gather to watch the Super Bowl at the home of Jason & Christina Hidek on Sunday February 6, 2011 at 6 pm. Bring your favorite tailgating food along with a donation for the FHC food pantry. Contact Christina Hidek at christina.hidek@gmail.com or (440)646-9093 for more information.

February 6, Hideks', Super Bowl Party

Iris Circle (Women of Forest Hill Church): **February Bible Study**

Iris Circle will not meet in January, but we look forward to joining the Rev. Clover Beal in a Women's Bible study at the home of Nancy Grube, 5261 Graham Dr., Lyndhurst, on February 15, 2011 at 1:00 in the afternoon. All women are welcome.

February 15, Grubes', Bible Study

Nominees for Office, 2011

Nick Baumgartner (Trustee: 3-yr term)

Nick and his wife Phyllis joined Forest Hill Church in 1972. Nick has served as a Deacon, Deacon Elder, and Elder Trustee. He is currently an usher. He is a Professor of Chemistry at John Carroll University where he has been since 1969. Nick and Phyllis have 4 adult children and 3 wonderful grandchildren. Their daughters, Missy and Sara, live with them and are members of Forest Hill Church.

Jaired Birks (Justice and Mission: Elected Leader)

Chessie Bleick (Trustees: Elder, 3-yr term)

Mary Ann Breisch (Worship: Elected Leader)

Mary Ann Breisch has been a member of Forest Hill since October of 2009. She has created paraments for our sanctuary and is currently participating in Faith Leaders. She is a liturgical artist and is the Associate Head of School at the Lillian and Betty Ratner School. She and her husband Jack live in Chagrin Falls and have a son and a daughter, Ben and Sarah.

David Burleigh (Education and Spiritual Formation: Elected Leader, Adult Education)

David is director of marketing at OverDrive, a software company and eBook distributor in Valley View. He has been a member of FHC since 2001 along with his wife, Kate; they have three sons, Will, Colin and Andrew. He has participated in Faith Leader IV, Nominating Committee, and a few other activities, including the champion FHC softball team. He was also a facilitator, with Kate, in the just-completed Kerygma program.

Dale Dannefer (Stewardship: Elder, 3-yr term)

Chris Davis (Nominating Committee)

Chris Davis is currently an usher and Sunday School teach at FHC. He and his family, Amy Davis, Peter (7th), and Ben (6th), have been members for three years and have attended longer than that. He is the Primary Art Specialist for University School, teaching art and technology grades 1-5; before that he taught advanced digital imaging and photography at US Upper School for fifteen years. In addition, he coaches middle school soccer and lacrosse as well as travel soccer, baseball, and lacrosse for Shaker youth.

Christine Fuller (Trustee: 3-yr term)

Chris has attended FHC for 37 years, when she joined the Chancel Choir (1973). She became a member of FHC in April, 1975. Chris has served on the Stewardship committee, has been a lay reader, and is a former parish secretary; she is also a bell choir substitute (and former bell choir member). She is the director of the H&R Block Premium office in Beachwood, and also works as the treasurer of Euclid Pediatrics, Inc. Her husband Daniel grew up in FHC, as did her 2 grown children (Scott and Amy.) Chris enjoys reading, walking her 2 dogs, aerobics, and playing bridge.

Robyn Hales (Nominating Committee)

Robyn has attended Forest Hill Church since 2003 and joined in July, 2004. She was a group participant in the Seeking Spirituality Prayer Group lead by Derry Stauffer, has been a confirmation partner, and is a parent volunteer for the Ministry of Believers (MOB). Robyn began working with NOAH during a Get Out The Vote campaign in 2004, was a Co-Core Team Leader with Scott Lafferty and is currently the Board President. She is on the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services Advisory Board and a member of the Downtown Citizens' Circle which counsels re-entrants (ex-offenders). She was last year's Co-Coordinator of the first Forest Hill Fashion Show with Barbara Cloud and youth from FHC and the Cleveland Heights community. Robyn has worked at CEOGC (Cuyahoga County's Community Action Agency) since 2001 as a Program Planning Specialist. Her mother, Dorothy, and niece, Ajah attend FHC occasionally. Her son, Jordan Dail, is a member of FHC and active participant in Sine Nomine and MOB.

Barry Hartz (Education & Spiritual Formation: Elder, 3-yr term)

Barry Hartz and his wife, Jennifer, have been members of Forest Hill for ten years. As a band director at both Brush High School and Memorial Junior High, Barry has taught many Forest Hill musicians over the past 22 years. He has served as an elected leader on the adult education planning committee and is an alumnus of Kerygma and Faith Leaders. He is currently a PhD student at CWRU and an enthusiastic follower of Zoe Hartz's Descant Choir performances.

Christina Hidek (Justice & Mission: Elected Leader)

Christina Hidek has been a member of FHC for 9 years and previously served on the Church Growth Committee. In her "free time" she enjoys cooking, gardening and scrapbooking.

Brooke Marcy (Stewardship: Elected Leader)**Clayton Minder (Stewardship: Elder, 2-yr term)****Laura Minder (Trustee)****Laurie Muller-Girard (Vocation and Leadership: Elder, 3-yr term)**

Laurie has been a member of Forest Hill Church for nearly 15 years. During that time, she has enjoyed serving as a Trustee, Pathways shepherd, and a member of the Nominating Committee. Laurie is a Managing Director at KeyBanc Capital Markets. Laurie and her husband, Eric, are the proud parents of Megan and Katie.

Stephen Sedam (Stewardship: Elected Leader)

Stephen Sedam, resident of Cleveland Heights, has been a member of Forest Hill Church for three years. Over this period, he enjoyed being a member of the Kerygma class of 2008 - 2009 and is now enrolled in the Faith Leader class which he also finds to be deeply rewarding. His wife, Virginia Weiss, who often helps out in the nursery on Sunday mornings, is a clinical social worker for the Achievement Centers for Children. Steve currently is employed as Director of Leadership Giving for The Holden Arboretum. Except for a recent 3-year stint with the Cleveland Institute of Music, his entire 34-year career has been devoted to environmental conservation with the last eight years focused entirely on development. Steve is a graduate of Denison University and loves to travel, hike, bike, garden, laugh, cook and eat.

Cathie Kernich (Deacon: 3-yr term)

Cathie joined FHC in October 2009 after attending for about 8 months. She has volunteered for IHN. She is a nurse practitioner and works on the spinal cord injury unit at the Cleveland VA Medical Center. She enjoys cooking, baking, gardening, beading, traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Ron Register (Justice and Mission: Elder, 3-yr term)

Pat Seeders (Trustee, 2-yr term)

Pat and her husband Jim moved to Cleveland Heights 5 ½ years ago from Huntington, WV. Pat left her retail management job to become the full-time nanny of their granddaughter Devyn Etling. Pat and Jim joined FHC 4 years ago and have been sharing in the teaching of Children in Worship as well as being the primary caretakers of the courtyard gardens.

Elizabeth Shaw (Nominating Committee)

Derry Stauffer (Nominating Committee)

Kevin Steiner (Nominating Committee)

Ahren Stock (Deacon: 3-yr term)

Ahren has attended Forest Hill since January of 2010 and joined in November. He has sung in the choir and played trumpet for a few services and is very excited to participate in the Pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece this March! Ahren is in his eleventh year at Hawken School where he teaches instrumental music grades 4-8, coaches middle school soccer, and serves as an eighth grade advisor. Ahren is a graduate of the College of Wooster and he enjoys running, playing ping-pong, and attending any variety of arts events.

Julie Waring (Deacon: 3-yr term)

Nancy Wyss (Deacon: 3-yr term)

Nancy Wyss has been a member of Forest Hill Church for 3 years. She has two children, Lauren and Kimberly, and one grandson, Dylan. She has been working as a respiratory therapist at the Cleveland Clinic for over 25 years.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 16. Lunch will be served after worship; the meeting follows lunch. All FHC members are encouraged to attend!