

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

November 2011

Dear Friends,

It was a year ago that fifty people gathered after a church service to discuss the disturbing events in Pepper Pike and the emotional ordeal of Demo and Reni Solaru, young members of FHC. Their experience opened again the fragile layer that covers the issue of Race in America.

At the lunch meeting Ron Register challenged Forest Hill Church to look inward while we were gazing outward. From that meeting, Ron, Doris Allen, Mark Chupp and I began to meet. Through the winter we planned the course of action. In May, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, a group of over 50 met and organized themselves into small dinner groups. At each of the dinner groups, held over the summer, short segments of the DVD "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible" was shown and discussed. On Sunday, September 25th after church all the participants met again to share their experiences and to look ahead.

Talking about race is not easy. But over the summer, new relationships were formed, stories were shared, awareness was cultivated and we grew the capacity to talk about deep things, and to move onward in hope.

Thank you to the small group facilitators who dedicated their summers to leading the dinners: Kate Monaghan, Doris Allen, Ron Register, Mark Chupp, Elaine Turley, Diana Woodbridge, Chris Henry, John Lentz, Vikki Nowak and Todd Webster.

The process is not over. Talking about race and building the beloved community envisioned by the prophets is not an overnight, follow-the-dots kind of thing. There are no simple instructions to construct an inclusive, diverse community.

There were some identifiable, shorter and medium term goals that we will press on to implement. These plans include:

- The next One Book One Church selection be written by an African-American;
- A "pilgrimage" to, for example, Memphis, Birmingham, or Washington D.C. in order to visit the "holy" sites of our own national formation;
- A bike trip up the Underground Railroad trail starting in Cincinnati;
- Inviting new folks to join a discussion group and re-create the experience shared by the 50.
- Encouraging every member of the church to get to know someone of a difference race, or background;
- Learning from and visiting progressive, open churches that have "succeeded" in growing diverse congregations.

Some Sunday in November, everyone will be invited to a bag lunch in Bodwell Hall. At that gathering members of the summer conversation will report on their experience. New people will be invited to join the work. Together we will press on!

God bless you. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that is willing to have such conversations!

John

*John Lentz
Senior Pastor*



*You are invited to the ordination of Mary Robin Craig
To the Ministry of Word and Sacrament*

*Forest Hill Church
Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 4 pm*

Inside the November Tower

From the Pastor	1
You Are Invited	2
The Clover Patch	3
Children and Youth Ministries.....	5
Do You Need Leaves Raked?	6
Youth of FHC	7
Music Notes	8
Save the Dates	9
Discernment Task Force Update.....	10
Sundays in November	11
November Calendar.....	12
FHC Room Use Policy.....	14
Adult Education in November	15
From the Ministry of Stewardship	16
News of Our Church Family	17
Women’s Retreat.....	18
Social Groups and Circles	19
Office News and Reminders.....	20
A Poem a Day.....	21
New Life Community.....	23

The Clover Patch



Dear friends,

I have just returned from a clergy renewal conference called CREDO where I spent one week in gorgeous southern Washington state in Skamania County on the spectacular Columbia River gorge. The PC(USA) Board of Pensions hosts the event for clergy who have been serving in ordained ministry for at least ten years. The conference is a way to foster renewal and wellness in mid-career pastors. Sadly, the burnout rate among clergy is very high. We luxuriated in the pleasure of not planning or implementing any worship services, meditations, studies, prayers, or leadership of any sort! We were able to drink in the care from the seven-person leadership team whose capabilities were extraordinary.

Pastors don't routinely honor the Sabbath for themselves. Pastors rightly are caring for their parishioners' needs, but often without paying attention to the physical, spiritual, financial or vocational areas of their own lives. Tragically, the divorce rates are unusually high for clergy marriages, probably for some of the aforementioned reasons.

I heard stories of joy and challenge from colleagues who led churches with memberships of over 2000 and some with churches of only 35 members. There was much laughter and tears shared over the course of the week. We were given the difficult tasks of honest reflection of our own gifts, passions, and sense of call. We were exhorted to find again the reasons why we entered the ministry of Jesus Christ and to articulate our vision for our way forward. It was clear that some pastors present were in the crossroads of a decision to continue in Christian ministry or not. Sadly, I believe some will be leaving the ministry, at least for a time. Giving witness to the pain in some cases was sobering.

On the last day, we had to present our CREDO plan that consisted of three goals with steps for accomplishing them. I began my presentation admitting that I had felt some guilt over the course of the entire week because I, unlike so many present, am very content with and grateful for my ministry among our congregation. I probably sounded like I was in denial because I bragged on our church family so much! I did set three personal goals however that hopefully will help keep me focused and healthy for my ministry. I want to model good health – in body, mind and spirit – as essential in ministering among you.

I started the week in Washington joy-filled and grateful for our church. I ended the week still joy-filled and grateful for our church, but sprinkled with cautionary wisdom for keeping myself that way. Thank you for supporting me in this time away and through this experience. You were all in my heart.

Blessings,

Clover

Clover Beal
Associate Pastor

Children and Youth Ministries

Thank you to all the teachers, shepherds, leaders, and helpers that shared their faith and time in our church school programs. The children continued to be involved in their classrooms as they explored our faith in October with lessons and stories of Creation, Noah, Moses, and King David.

- In the nursery, thank you to Brittani & Kevin Ball, Jen Fu, Beth Feroe, Erin Armstrong, Jill Roberts, and Lara Troyer.
- In the Little Explorers class, thank you to Becky West and Sandy Schultz.
- In the Children in Worship class, thank you to Sarah & Matt Winters.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Wendy Brock, Vikki Nowak, Kara Schellenberg, Peter Williams and Joanne Shaner.

Children's Ministry

Little Explorers

Three and Four year olds

Joanne & Dan Shaner will lead this class in November. The children will explore the story of Moses after the Exodus, from Miriam's viewpoint. They will participate in activities that explore how God's people say thank you. Be sure to ask your pre-schoolers about their church school lesson. It's a great way to reinforce the Bible lesson and story.

Children in Worship

Older four year olds and kindergarten

Diane Moyer and Jeremy Ryman will be teaching this class in November. The children in this age group are asked to respond to the stories they've heard through "I Wonder" questions. There is also a craft response to help them better understand the story. This month the children will hear stories about Jacob and Moses; they will also explore how the church tells time.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

The next rotation theme centers on *Isaiah*. Isaiah was a loud, prophetic voice in a time of turmoil in pre-exilic Judah and Israel and during the exile. While warning the people of Israel and Judah that their unrighteous ways would lead to ruin, he also promised a return to greatness. It is that promise of hope in the future that planted the seed for a Messiah to emerge in the history of God's people. The children will explore this theme through storytelling, geography and relating similar issues we have in today's world.

Dates to Know

- Nov. 6** Gathering Time: Children will meet in the chapel at 11:00, then be dismissed to workshops with their shepherds.
- Nov. 13 & 20** Children will begin in Worship, then be dismissed to their workshops
- Nov. 20** Cherubs meet at 10:15 in Room 207
- Nov. 27** The first Sunday of Advent
KISS – children will attend worship to celebrate the Lord's Supper with their families; .
- Dec. 4** **Advent Workshop**

Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education



Do you need your leaves raked?

Is your yard bigger than your work force?

Would you like a helping hand?

Contact Kristen Otte (321-2660 or kristeno@fhcpresb.org)

and a team of FHC Youth will come

to help you out!

Donations for the mission trip are accepted but not required.

converge

A new kind of worship experience for this generation

Converge is a modern worship service that meets monthly on the second Sunday of each month at 7 pm. **Converge** is a collaborative effort of many churches in Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and surrounding areas. The monthly worship services are geared for teens with a full band (drums, electric guitar, keys) and a relevant message.

Converge launches on November 13th at 7 pm at First Baptist Church (3630 Fairmount, Shaker Hts). You don't want to miss it!

Announcing the 2012 Senior High Mission Trip

The Senior Highs will spend a week in mission in Cherokee, North Carolina from July 8-14. The trip is open to current eighth graders through high school seniors. On November 20th, there will be two separate meetings for youth and parents about the trip. The interested senior high will meet during the Sunday school hour at 9:30 am. Parents will meet after church on November 20th (during Sine Nomine practice) in the Koinonia room. During both meetings, details such as participant cost and fundraising plans will be discussed.

Fun & Fellowship in November

Friday Night Skate

November 18th from 7:30-9:00pm

Meet at Thornton Ice Arena (3301 Warrensville Center Rd., Shaker Heights) for a night of fun on the ice. Bring \$10 to cover admission and skate rental.

Sweetie Fry

Senior Highs are invited for delicious ice cream and impossibly good fries on November 12th at 3 pm at Sweetie Fry, Lee and Silsby in CH.

Check out the website www.fhcpresb.org Come and see! 7

Cavs Game

If the NBA season starts, Forest Hill has group tickets reserved for Friday December 2. Bring your friends and family for a night of basketball action. Ticket cost is \$25!

Sunday Mornings

The Mid High Youth meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Koinonia Room. We are studying the parables of Jesus through a variety of mediums, including games, discussion, audio and visual elements, art, and more.

The Senior High Youth meet for a time of discussion and study on the Book of Proverbs and the wisdom the book has to offer us today.

Kristen Otte
Director of Youth ministries



Music

November starts with the end of Daylight Saving Time on the first Sunday, November 6th, so I hope the congregation and choirs will enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

If you get your Tower the last week of October, then this will serve as a reminder about **Pedals, Pipes and Pastries!** As part of the Cleveland Organ Weekend, I will play a short, family-friendly, entertaining and educational organ recital at 1:00 pm on Saturday, October 29th. The organ is a complex beast, and I will, I hope, enlighten the audience with commentary, well-known organ excerpts and funny songs sung by Beth Zych and Carl Jenks. Pastries to follow. Bring the kids and their friends also!

During November, the Chancel Choir will be singing three anthems which take lots of practice to learn. On the 6th, the choir will sing John Rutter's sublime *This is the Day*, a piece written for the royal wedding of the Brits Kate and William. Chris Fuller graciously purchased this anthem for the choir after being particularly moved after hearing it sung at the wedding. On the 13th, the energetic *Jubilate Deo* will be sung. This anthem was given in honor and celebration of Julie and Clayton Minder (an anniversary gift!) by Jane

8 *Check out the website www.fhcpresb.org Come and see!*

Frederick, and the Solaru, Bell, Brock, Kowall, Lafferty, Obery and Zych families. What a lovely idea for a gift!

And then on November 20th, Christ the King Sunday, we will have a double celebration: this fall marks the 20th anniversary of our Casavant pipe organ, given in memory of Elizabeth Popely Husni. The organ will be put to triumphant work that morning as the choir sings William Mathias' thrilling *Let All the People Praise Thee, O God*, an anthem composed for the wedding of the royals Diana and Charles. This Sunday is also our 3rd arts-enhanced liturgy, this time celebrating the spirituality of dance. Dancers from Inlet Dance Theatre will dance to a Bach organ work and during the singing of the hymn *I Danced in the Morning*. I am grateful to Bill Wade, choreographer, for his collaboration with me. He was for many years head of the dance department at the Cleveland School of the Arts, and he and I worked together on some dances a decade ago.

The Descant Choir will sing the charming *Scottish Penny Song* on November 13th, and the children will be collecting pennies to donate to the FHC Food Cupboard. Kindly start saving up your pennies in preparation for throwing them gleefully into the children's baskets.

And lastly, let me extend a hearty welcome to new Chancel Choir members: Michael Hives, tenor; Devin Moffitt, bass; and Paul Jennings, bass. Paul is the architect of our Abundance Acres garden—in addition to his green thumb, he has green vocal chords!
☺

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson

Organist/Director of Music
annew@fhcpresb.org

Save the Dates

Dec. 4	Advent Workshop after worship
Dec. 18	Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11 am
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Family Worship, 5 pm Candlelight Worship, 11 pm
Dec. 25	Christmas: No classes or choirs Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall
Jan. 1	New Year's Day: No classes or choirs Informal worship, 11 am in Fellowship Hall

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Discernment Task Force Update

As you will recall, Session called this task force together to discern FHC's core values and how our values can faithfully shape decisions about church growth, financial stability, and our future. After interviewing 49 people representing a cross section of the FHC community, conducting a church-wide survey, visiting local churches, examining 40 years of our history, and capturing members' stories, our report is nearing completion. The report will summarize what we did, what we found, what are the future trends in churches, and most importantly how our core values guide us to do God's work and reveal His plan for us.

This has been a humbling and exciting journey for the task force members as we discovered and rediscovered what an amazing church we were in the past, we are now, and will be in the future. A final report, complete with recommendations for consideration, will be presented to Session this month. Session will in turn share the report with the ministries who will, with the assistance of the Task Force, further discern the information presented. Our report will also be communicated to the full congregation for comment and input.

The Task Force is grateful to Session for this opportunity given us and especially to the full congregation for their deep and loving participation in this most important process in the life of our church.

Dave Bell	Stephen Sedam
Barb Cloud	Elizabeth Shaw
Jeannine Gury	Chuck Smith
Barb Hansen	Jeff Smith
Melody Obery	Peg Weissbrod

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Sundays in November	
9:00	Child care begins
9:30	Adult education: Kerygma classes Youth education Descant Choir
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) (11:00, Nov. 6; KISS, Nov. 27)
12:15	Coffee Hour
5:00	Faith Leader Kerygma

November 6 Daylight Saving Time ends 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir 12:30 Brunch: 20s – 40s	Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78: 1-7 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13
November 13 7:00 pm Youth: <i>Converge</i> worship at First Baptist Church	Judges 4: 107 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30
November 20 Christ the King 8:00 Nominating Committee 10:15 Cherub Choir 11:00 WORSHIP: Celebration of the organ Baptism of Piper Chapman 12:15 Sine Nomine Choir Parent Meeting: Mission trip	Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46
November 27 1 Advent 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion Pathways: KISS	Isaiah 64: 1-9 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37

12-13 cal

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here. The Kerygma Bible Study readings are listed on the Adult Ed page (p. 15)

FHC Room Use Policy

12-13 cal

If you are leading or participating in a meeting at church please remember to follow the rules that have been established to maintain our building.

SET-UP

- Room set-up - Request in advance through the church office
- Tables and other furniture must be moved by custodian
- Adjustment of blinds in all rooms - contact Custodian
- Adjustment of thermostats – throughout the building- contact Custodian
- Moveable wall (Fellowship Hall) – **Do Not Move** - contact Custodian for any change
- Posting of signs (Fellowship Hall - moveable wall only) - use tacks or Velcro
- Posting of signs (Elsewhere in building) - nothing may be attached to wall, woodwork or doors. Only free standing signs may be used. **NO TAPE OF ANY TYPE MAY BE USED IN THE BUILDING**

DURING YOUR EVENT

- There will be a custodian on-site during your scheduled event. If at any time should you encounter a need, please call the custodian at 216-217-5257.
- Custodian must be alerted to spills immediately.
- Children must be supervised at all times and may not play on the stage or on its steps.
- Craft materials are permitted only in areas with vinyl tile flooring and must be pre-approved by FHC prior to use.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the sanctuary, restrooms or corridors.
- Please limit access to room(s) agreed upon in rental agreement and adjacent restrooms and corridors.
- Parking lot – park only in designated spaces, do not park in reserved spots; park in handicapped spaces only with the appropriate permit.
- FHC is a non-smoking facility. No smoking is permitted in the building or on church grounds.
- No alcohol, firearms, weapons, drugs or contraband material are allowed on premises.

TEARDOWN/CLEAN-UP

- Remove all signs when event is over.
- Leftover food must be disposed of.
- Dumpster lids must be able to close (please condense/compress garbage if needed).
- Please remember to leave all utilized rooms as you found them.

Thank you,

The Trustees

Adult Education in November Kerygma classes continue through Nov. 27

Nov. 6: Exodus 20:1-21: The Decalogue

Nov. 13: Exodus 22: 20-27: Alien and stranger in your land

Nov. 20: Exodus 32: 1-14: The golden calf; arguing with God

Nov. 27: Exodus 40: 1-38: The finishing of the tabernacle

A Message from the Ministry of Stewardship

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

As this passage makes clear, stewardship is first of all stewardship of God's grace. Thus, stewardship is central to our mission as a church, as we reach out in hope and joy to a world in great need.

Our theme for this year's season of stewardship is **Reclaiming the Mission**. We invite you to join us in both *celebrating the successes* and *responding to the challenges* of the last two years. The household of God has been well served, and we rejoice in gratitude for the generous response to building campaign.

Yet as many of you know, last year's lean budget required cuts in mission initiatives and precluded pay raises for our talented and dedicated staff. Overall, FHC had to operate with about 10% less during 2011 than had been the case in recent prior years. We invite you to join the members of the Stewardship of Ministry in reflecting on the abundance of grace God has bestowed upon us, and in prayerfully considering and making a 10% increase in your pledge. And, if you've yet to make a pledge, please consider doing so this year.

Pledges will be dedicated on November 20. We greatly appreciate hearing from you by then.

Yours faithfully,

The Ministry of Stewardship

Brett Himes, Chair

Brooke Marcy, Clayton Minder, Steve Sedam, Dale Dannefer

News of Our Church Family

Baptisms

Chloe Elizabeth Russo, daughter of Matt and Katie Russo, sister of Niklaus and granddaughter of Anne and Jeff Smith, was baptized October 16. Jeff Smith was the attending Elder. Chloe's godparents are Jennifer Smith and Tyler Delhees.

In Memoriam We Remember

Millie Skeivis, who died October 5, 2011.

The memorial service for Millie Skeivis is scheduled for Nov. 19 at 11 am

New Contact Information

Jaired Birks

402 W. College Ave. #1280
Ada, OH 45810

Carolyn Doggett

15625 Shelley St
Southfield MI 48076
248-443-9272

Jim and Terry Daedelow

7403 Tattersall Dr.
Chesterland, OH 44026

New emails only

Matt Winters winterm2@yahoo.com

Care Group

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

Members of the Corinth CARE Group are:

Ahren Stock, Deacon leader	Alice McKinley
Joan Bacon	Kate Monaghan
Molly Bergman	Margery & James Nokes
John & Patricia Borthwick	Linn & Melody Obery
Ed Briskey	David & Susanne Peterjohn & family
Jeff & Kathy Cameron	Bill Proudfit
Barb Cloud	Ron Schmidt
Priscilla Colville	Sandy Schultz
Joy Ferguson	Dan & Joanne Shaner & family
Kurt Haas & Dee Dee Pim	Vincent Taylor
Robert & Lisa Higgs & family	Bobbi van Dijk
Brian & Tish Klein & family	Kevin & Jill White & family
John & Deanne Lentz & family	Dene Young
Tom & Diane McFiggen	

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Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Pat and Fran Drake, Rose Eaton, Betty Farnfield, Marilyn Gifford, Elizabeth Kosnik, Mary Lewis, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

Robin Dadusc (requested by Kathryn Himmelsteib), Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey (Tom and Paula Harvey's family), Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother),

Ushers in November

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

Women's Retreat

Making Space for God

Saturday, December 3, 2011
9:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch included)

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian
Bodwell Hall
\$20 (for lunch and materials)

Join us as we make space in our hearts and minds for God's presence throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will be nurtured in our fellowship, laughter and quiet surrounded by familiar and new friends. Through creative activities, bible study, and discussion, Jean Reinhold and others will guide our day's activities.

To register: contact Lynda, office@fhcpresb.org, by November 28.

18 *Check out the website* www.fhcpresb.org *Come and see!*

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s) **Art Museum Tour and Dinner**

On Saturday, November 12 Anne Wilson will lead The Group through the European Romantic Age through Contemporary galleries at the Cleveland Museum of Art. We will meet in the main lobby of the museum at 3:30 pm. Following the tour, we will have dinner at the Trattoria Restaurant in Little Italy. Valet parking is available. Please contact Barbara Hansen (Bhansen@oh.rr.com or 440-255-5514) if you plan to attend.

November 12, Cleveland Museum of Art, 3:30 pm

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s – 60s): **Game Night**

So this church thing we're part of...it's pretty much about relationships, right? And what builds relationships between people better than GAMES? So you need to get to the Weissbrod/Marunowski's house on **Saturday, Nov. 12** for great games, great food, and great fun. We'll have tons of board games like Blurt and Tie One On andand if you get tired of board games, there'll be a darts and air hockey tournaments in the basement. We'll provide the soft drinks, you bring whatever else you want to drink, and everybody bring something good to eat that won't slow down the gameplay. There'll be prizes...and an **extra** special prize for anyone who brings a friend. RSVP to Peg or Steve (216.291.2586 or pwwmarunowski@sbcglobal.net) to let them know you're coming...or to get directions to their house at 1084 Dorsh Rd. in So. Euclid.

(And don't be saying you're too young or too old for Pacesetters....if your heart's still beating—and you're old enough to drive—you're the right age for Game Night!)

November 12, Weissbrod/Marunowski house, 7:30 pm



Iris Circle (all women of the church): **Christmas Service Project**

Women of Forest Hill Church are invited to participate in our Christmas service project. We will be decorating ornaments for the Justice and Mission Christmas gifts to Boulevard School children. We will also be collecting and compiling packages to send to FHC college freshmen. We want to remind our college students that FHC is thinking about them as they take their finals.

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We currently have 11 students on our list of freshmen. Bring whatever you would like to include – gum, candy, popcorn, hot chocolate, etc. – that will help these students get through their first college finals. Cash will be greatly appreciated to help cover the cost of mailing.

This will be a brown bag luncheon. Bring your own or order a brown bag lunch made by Don Ghiandoni. Order by Nov. 12 (Sunday), either turkey or roast beef sandwiches, cost is \$5. Reservations needed only for brown bag lunch orders. Call Cathy Ghiandoni at 216 691-1905 or email cgghiandoni@aol.com.

November 15, Fellowship Hall, 12 pm

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 NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 9 (1 week early), JANUARY 13. We will be distributing TOWERs in the Garden Foyer for a week or two 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
- ❖ Liz Wollaeger (DCE), lizw@fhcpresb.org, ext. 206
- ❖ Kristen Otte (Youth), kristeno@fhcpresb.org, ext 207
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203
- ❖ Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

If you are in the building and need a custodian, or outside needing to get in, and a custodian is on duty, he may be reached at 216-217-5257.

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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. We currently have opening for an arrangement to be donated on November 20.

**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!**



A Poem a Day

I often read **The Writer's Almanac**, an on-line (and on-air) daily piece by Garrison Keillor (<http://writersalmanac.publicradio.org/>). He presents a single poem, followed by a list of notable people, usually writers, who have a birthday or other event that day. Each person then gets several paragraphs of personal history.

I save poems that I find interesting, or moving, or somehow are just what I needed the day they appeared. I'd like to share a few with you now.

Lynda Bernays

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IX. by Wendell Berry

I go by a field where once
I cultivated a few poor crops.
It is now covered with young trees,
for the forest that belongs here
has come back and reclaimed its own.
And I think of all the effort
I have wasted and all the time,
and of how much joy I took
in that failed work and how much
it taught me. For in so failing
I learned something of my place,
something of myself, and now
I welcome back the trees.

The Writer's Almanac, August 23, 2011

Lifer by Sam Hamill

McNeil Island Correctional Center, 1:86

Hunched over hard white bread
and plastic soup bowl filled with gruel,
he looked like a stork, a silly angel,
all neck and bony shoulder-wings
and awkward beak.

His head lifted, then fell
in a slow deliberate dance,
three, four times, doughy-skinned
in a gray room sickened by yellow light.
He kept his eyes shut tight.

Outside the prison dining hall,
a turnkey slammed and locked
the heavy iron gate. The old man placed
his palms together softly, raised
them to his stubbled chin

crossed himself, and ate.

The Writer's Almanac, August 26, 2011

22 *Check out the website* www.fhcpresb.org *Come and see!*

*You might be interested in this history of New Life Community, now, with the former IHN, part of **Family Promise of Greater Cleveland***

New Life Community

In the summer of 1990 four families moved into their apartments in a building on Kinsman and East 154th Street as part of a pilot project called New Life Community. New Life Community had been shaped gradually over two years through an ecumenical prayer group organized by Tom and Grace Uhle after Tom was awakened in the night with a clear sense of a call to provide a transitional housing program for the homeless families of Cleveland. He invited others to join him in prayer as they developed a ministry to the homeless. New Life was modeled after a program in Dallas called Interfaith Housing Coalition.

In 1992 the founders of New Life Community bought the St. Cecelia's Parish School building for \$1 from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and raised the money to renovate the interior into 14 apartments with offices and program space on the lower level.

The space in the building has been set up very much the same as it was when the building was first renovated. The programming has occurred onsite and has always been comprehensive in nature. 20 years ago and today the head of household learns how to manage finances, improve parenting skills, learn job skills, find housing, and most importantly, how to believe in themselves. The outcomes have consistently been outstanding: 85% of the families who complete the program leave with employment and permanent housing.

While New Life Community was always a non-denominational program, it was founded in prayer and the same prayer group – now called the Mission Group – has met weekly since the founding of the organization. The love and concern for each resident exhibited by the staff and volunteers was the basis for the program's success. When someone believes in you, it is easier to believe in yourself.

From www.familypromisecle.org