

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

February 2014

Dear Friends,

***From the
Pastor***

Sunday, January 5 was Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany is the day when the Magi who had been following "the star in the East" found their way to the manger of Jesus. Thanks to Peg Weissbrod, at the conclusion of the service of worship on Epiphany, all in attendance were invited to take a small star from baskets located at the foot of the communion table. Each star had a word on it. On the back of the star were these instructions:

The word on this star describes a gift from God to you...allow your word to speak to you... Ponder and pray about it in the coming year, reflecting on the significance this word might have for you, and how God might be speaking to you through it.

Since that Sunday it has been quite amazing to hear the responses of the star bearers. At the Budget meeting one person said; "my word is 'abundance' and we actually have an abundance of resources!" Another said; "My word is 'joy' and I am very joyful that we are having such a good meeting!" My word was 'encouragement' and I said: "Let me encourage you to continue all this good work! I am encouraged that we will not have to ask for any supplemental funds from an already generous congregation."

One visitor took a star and apparently it caused an uproar of laughter in his pew. His word was 'self-control;' a word that, I guess, he needed to hear.

The idea for this wonderful activity came from the Tricia and Mark Dykers-Koenig, former co-pastors of Noble Road Presbyterian Church. As I am fond of saying: "you are only as good as who you steal from!"

I do hope that you let your word have its way with you in the months ahead as January turns to February, as winter turns to spring, as we head into Lent and on towards Easter. How can you claim 'abundance' every day? How can you keep 'joy' alive even when you don't feel joyful. I will try to be encouraging as I possibility can even when I feel discouraged.

Watch what words you use with others. Read the words of scripture often. Pray words of thanksgiving and intercession. Listen to the words that others use. Remember that Jesus is the "logos," the living Word of God.

Let me encourage you to enjoy this activity!

Faithfully yours,



John C. Lentz, Jr
Sr. Pastor

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Children's Ministries and Confirmation

January continued to be busy as our children and youth explored Jesus' early life and ministry. They discovered how people were transformed by their encounter with Jesus and his message. Thank you to all who led, shepherded, and guided our youth in knowing about God's love for us.

- In the Nursery/Crib Room, thank you to Sarah Tan, Deanne Lentz, Libby Dolan, Jill Roberts, Maggie & Allie Peterjohn, and Chloe Birdsell.
- In the Children in Worship class, thank you to Amanda Mervine and Laura Peterjohn.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Wendy Brock, Laurie Logan, Jane Duncan, Christina Hidek, Peter Williams, and Diane Moyer & Jeremy Ryman.

Children's Christian Education

Children in Worship Pre-school and Kindergarten

During the month of February the children in these classes will focus their exploration on Jesus' early ministry, his baptism, calling his disciples and his early teachings. Each story has a response to help the children better understand the story. Be sure to ask your children about what they did in church school. Danielle Cosgrove and Shannon Headen will be taking turns leading this class.

Pathways to the Promise Land Grades 1-5

In February the children in this program will be focusing on *the Great Commandment*. The Great Commandment puts into words the foundational message of Jesus' ministry. The children will be exploring this theme through art, games and prayer activities.

Confirmation

Please keep our Confirmands and Covenant Partners in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to focus on Faith Journeys. So far the class has begun to discern how scripture impacts our lives, learned what Presbyterian creeds are, and went on a weekend overnight retreat at Camp Burton. In the coming months they will do service projects and attend other faiths' worship services.

Dates to Know

February 2 KISS – Kids in Sunday Service

Pathways children will attend the worship service with their families this morning to celebrate The Lord's Supper.

February 9 Gathering Time

Pathways children begin in the Chapel at 11:00, then will go to workshops with their shepherds.

February 6

Confirmation Bible Study 7:30-8:30, Koinonia Room

February 16 & 23 Pathways to the Promise Land

Children will begin in worship and will be dismissed to go with their shepherds to the Pathways workshops.

Faithfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Liz".

Liz Wollaeger
Director of Christian Education

Music

The choir room has a new addition! The Weissbrod family has graciously donated their beautiful Knabe grand piano to our church, and it is comfortably ensconced in its new home, happy with its new surroundings.



Ray and Pat Weissbrod recently sold their home in Euclid and have relocated to Florida. Their son Paul, who sings in the Chancel Choir, came to me with the proposal to replace the choir's current piano, a small spinet, with his parents' piano, the instrument Paul (as well as Peg and Rick) learned to play during childhood. So I went to try out the piano, liked it, and then called in piano technician George Knotek to examine and appraise the piano.

George meticulously checked out every key, hammer, and tuning pin and then pronounced it a well-cared for and very solid instrument (it was built in 1921—the glory days of piano building) and recommended that we accept this wonderful gift.

The piano needs a little tender loving care, and with the help of an endowment gift (fingers crossed), the piano will undergo some reconditioning and minor repairs over the summer. Come on down to check it out sometime. I'm loving it and am deeply grateful to the Weissbrod family.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 16 when *Song of Hope* will be performed. The Chancel, Sine Nomine and Descant choirs will all be singing, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. This 45-minute work is a setting of the eight Beatitudes, coupled with texts closely related to them. I was commissioned to compose a choral work by FHC 10 years ago; the resulting *Song of Hope* had its premiere performance in March, 2004. That performance was truly one of the highlights of my life.

Soli Deo Gloria

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne".

Anne Wilson
Organist, Director of Music Ministries

Black History Month Schedule

Please join us for one or all of the activities and events organized for this year's Forest Hill Church celebration of Black History Month. All are welcome!

Sunday, February 2, 12:30-2 pm: The World of Hip Hop

View the PBS Documentary and participate in a discussion led by Nobles C. Darby IV, Youth Pastor at New Spirit Revival Center. A light lunch will be provided.

Friday, February 7, 7 pm: *The Beasts of the Southern Wild*. Come join us for the movie and stay for popcorn, fellowship and discussion.

Sunday, February 16, 12:30-2 pm

Participate in a charette (a community dialogue) on how we can re-imagine a more welcoming and inclusive Fellowship Hall. (See details on p. 7.) A light lunch will be provided.

Sunday, February 23: Book Discussion, 12:30-2 pm

Join us to discuss *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander. A light lunch will be provided. (Books are currently available for purchase.)

Please contact Barb Cloud or Annette Himes if you have questions or are interested in helping with any of these events. Thank you!

The Black History Month Team

Doris Allen	Ajah Hales
Jennifer Blakeney	Robyn Hales
Barbara Cloud	Annette Himes
Jordon Dail	Vikki Nowak

Are you interesting in being part of the Black History Month? Please join us by contacting Barb Cloud or Annette Himes.

To all who worship at FHC, whether member or visitor, in all the wonderful diversity you represent – come, take part, lend your ideas . . .

Coffee Hour Charette – February 16

Charette: a gathering of people who, in small groups around tables, envision possibilities and come up with one best idea to address a particular issue. Each small group then pitches their idea to the larger group. Creative ideas, and the energy and excitement to do something with them, are the end result.

Picture a Sunday morning coffee hour in fellowship hall. Are you drawn to it or do you head out the door without stopping by? Can you imagine coffee hour as *the* place to be on every Sunday after church, a place filled with people and abuzz with activity, a place to get to know people in meaningful ways, a warm and inviting place for all to be?

Our goal is to gather a diverse group of folks to think together about how coffee hour might become more like what you have just envisioned. To that end, you are encouraged to take part in the Coffee Hour Charette on February 16, right after worship. No special expertise is needed, just your experience and ideas.

Mark your calendars, invite your friends and come on February 16 to be part of re-imagining coffee hour, to think about what we might do to make that time together more welcoming, with the end goal of becoming a more diverse and inclusive congregation. A light lunch will be provided.

The Black History Month Team

Letter to Members

FHC members received this letter from Scott Lafferty, the Clerk of Session, explaining the action of Session to post a sign in the church's front yard enumerating the gun deaths in Cuyahoga Co. since December 2012. We encourage your feedback.

Dear Members of Forest Hill Church,

At the December meeting of the Session, the Elders approved the posting of a sign on the front lawn of the church enumerating the deaths involving guns in Cuyahoga County since the Newtown, Connecticut tragedy in December 2012. Our sister church, The Church of the Covenant, has displayed this sign since June of 2013.

For the next three months, the number of deaths involving guns will be updated periodically. In early April, the sign will move to another congregation in the Heights or a neighboring community.

The Session understands that the issue of gun-related violence in America is contentious. Some of you may feel as if this is a controversial act for the Session to take. However, there are times in the life of a church when the Session discerns that the Spirit is guiding us to take a stand, although all in the congregation do not agree on that stand. We take this action with humility, and in so doing, pledge to practice Christian love, compassion, and mutual forbearance.

In conjunction with the sign posting, the Ministry of Justice and Mission will discuss ways to inform, educate and engage the congregation about the issue of gun-related violence in our society.

The sign does not promote gun control nor call for banning guns, but rather seeks to bring awareness to the issue of deaths involving guns in our community. Faithful people who disagree about issues of gun control or ownership can agree that people of faith must speak out against gun-related violence, support programs that care for the mentally ill, and promote gun safety.

We pray that the posting of this sign, along with the efforts of our Ministry of Justice and Mission, will heighten our awareness and serve as a catalyst for increasing our understanding of the issues surrounding gun-related violence.

Faithfully yours,



Scott Lafferty
Clerk of Session



Earth Care in Trying Times

In these early days of 2014, we are rushing headlong into the myriad of personal and professional activities, hopes and dreams for ourselves and our families as well as for our country and all the other nations of the world. How will 2014 turn out?

We can make a difference this year in how we approach the caring of the Earth which God has entrusted to us. Today's world requires more from members of the faith community than just Sunday worship. We must be active on many fronts, and there many things we can do as individuals and families to increase our responsible stewardship of the earth.

Begin with the *Reduce – Re-use – Recycle* mantra, and move forward. Are you concerned about supporting control of emissions and greenhouse gases, fracking, and other current environmental issues? Work proactively through our local, state, and national representatives and the legislative process. In subsequent months we'll list legislator addresses and several NGO's which are active in carrying the banner about various topics pertinent to environmental protection and Earth care. We hope you might choose to contact one or more of these and become involved.

Dave Neff, Green Team

News of Our Church Family

Births

Kayleigh Smith, daughter of Dan and Kristin Smith, was born January 14. Kayleigh is the granddaughter of Anne and Jeff Smith and the niece of Katie and Matt Russo.

In Memoriam We Remember

Gene Roy, former choir member and friend of many at FHC, died December 16, 2013.

New Contact Information

Phuong Huynh

322 Williamson Pl.

Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Care Group

The Corinth CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during February. 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:

Joan Bacon, Deacon leader

Molly Bergman

John & Patricia Borthwick

Ed Briskey

Jeff & Kathy Cameron

Kathy Carr

Lia Clement

Priscilla Colville

Kurt Haas & Dee Dee Pim

Robert & Lisa Higgs & family

Betty Jo Jenkins

Cathy Kernich

Brian & Tish Klein & family

John & Deanne Lentz & family

Tom & Diane McFiggen

Alice McKinley

Robin & Mel Mervine & family

Cate Monaghan

Margery Nokes

Linn & Melody Obery

David & Susanne Peterjohn & family

Bill Proudfit

Ron Schmidt

Sandy Schultz

Dan & Joanne Shaner & family

Vincent Taylor

Bobbi van Dijk

Kevin & Jill White & family

Dene Young

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers: Dick Bloomquist, Bill Currie, Ruth and Arthur Brickel, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Elizabeth Kosnik, Emelia McGuire, Merdine T. Morris, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié, Anne Taylor

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Graham Kiple (nephew of Kathryn Himmelsteib), Doug, Marcie and Lucy Harvey, (Tom and Paula Harvey's family), Charles Sawyer (Ann Williams' brother), Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother).

Ushers

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

Volunteer Hours in December

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn and Carolyn Vrtunski – worked a total of 37 hours in December. Thank you all!

Dear Forest Hill family,
Thank you all for the many loving cards, notes, phone calls, food, help with travel and shopping, and kindnesses, during my recent health problems. I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful faith community.

Carol Hopkins-Lutz

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to our Forest Hill family for all of the love and support they have provided Brian's parents, Ron and Florence Klein, and all of us over the last challenging year - an outpouring of phone calls, meals, flowers, communion, visits to the home and to Menorah Park, to name a few. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done for all of us! It is humbling and a privilege to be part of such a great caring community at FHC. Thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, and please continue to do so as this year has already presented us with more challenges.

Brian Klein and all the Klein family

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (60s – 70s): Super Bowl Party

You are invited to the Group Super Bowl Party, hosted by Cathy and Don Ghiandoni and Anne and David Hunter, on Sunday, February 2 at 6 pm at the home of the Hunters, 853 Hardwood Court, Mayfield Village. Chili and vegetable minestrone soup will be served, along with soft drinks and coffee. We ask that you bring either an appetizer or a dessert. Alcoholic drinks are BYOB. RSVP to Anne Hunter (anneshunter8@gmail.com) and let her know what you will bring. Come at 6 pm to get your bets placed for this exciting event! Invite friends!

February 2, Hunters' home, 6 pm

The Back Row (20s – 40s): Super Bowl Party

Our next all-family event is a Super Bowl party on February 2 at 6 pm at the Hideks' (5284 Golfway Lane, Lyndhurst). Please bring a dish to share. RSVP to Christina Hidek (216-570-3962 or christina.hidek@gmail.com).

February 2, Hideks' home, 6 pm

Young Adults (20s-30s): BottleHouse Get-together

We are getting our 20s/30s group back together on February 4 and we hope you can join us. The BottleHouse (2250 Lee Rd, Cleveland Hts; thebottlehousebrewingcompany.com) is a great space to meet, play games, grab a drink, and catch up. We will bring Dewey's Pizza for the group. We look forward to getting together and discussing plans for the year. If you are able to join us, please contact Charissa Peterson (charissapeterson@gmail.com).

February 4, BottleHouse on Lee Rd., 7 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church): Lunch and Bible Study

Food for the Body, Food for the Soul – please bring a favorite dish (your choice) and join us at Iris Circle's February 18 meeting at the home of Elspeth Peterjohn, 22832 Byron Rd., Shaker Hts. After lunch Clover Beal will lead a Bible study.

RSVP to Elspeth (216-991-0424 or elspethpj@earthlink.net).

February 18, Peterjohns' home, 12:00 pm

Sundays in February

- 9:00** Child care begins
9:30 Adult education
 Youth education; Confirmation
 Descant Choir
10:15 Descant Choir activity
10:30 Continental Breakfast
 Chancel Choir
11:00 WORSHIP
 Children in Worship
11:00 Pathways to the Promise Land (Gathering Time, Feb 9)
11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land (gr. 1-5) (KISS, Feb. 2)
12:15 Coffee Hour
 Sine Nomine Choir (Gr. 6-12) (Feb. 9, 23)
12:30 Black History Month program (see p. 6 for details)
5:00 Faith Leader
5:40 Labre Project (Feb. 9, 23)

February 2 11:00 WORSHIP: Communion; Installation and Ordination of Officers 6:00 Super Bowl parties	Micah 6: 1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12
February 9 12:15 Youth and Parents: Meeting about 2014 Mission Trip	Isaiah 58: 1-9a Psalm 112: 1-9 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 Matthew 5: 13-20
February 16 12:15 Blood Pressure check 6:30 YOUTH: Book Group at Caitlin's	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 Psalm 119: 1-8 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9 Matthew 5: 21-37
February 23	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119: 33-40 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5: 38-48

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

Announcements! Announcements!

<p><i>Looking ahead...</i></p> <p>Lent begins March 5</p> <p>Easter is April 20</p> <p>Save May 9 for a special event!</p>	<p>Need to reach the custodian on duty? Call the custodians' cell phone: 216-217-5257</p>
<p>Have you taken time to wander through the new hymnal yet? If you do, and see hymns you'd like to sing, tell Anne, John or Clover about them.</p> <p>Take a hymnal home (and be sure to bring it back!) if you'd like to study it more thoroughly.</p>	<p>TOWER deadlines: 7 am on February 14 March 14 April 18</p>

The church phone number is 216-321-2660. Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

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), anew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208

Liz Wollaeger (DCE), lizw@fhcpresb.org, ext. 206

Caitlin Michelle Desjardins (Youth), caitlind@fhcpresb.org, ext. 207

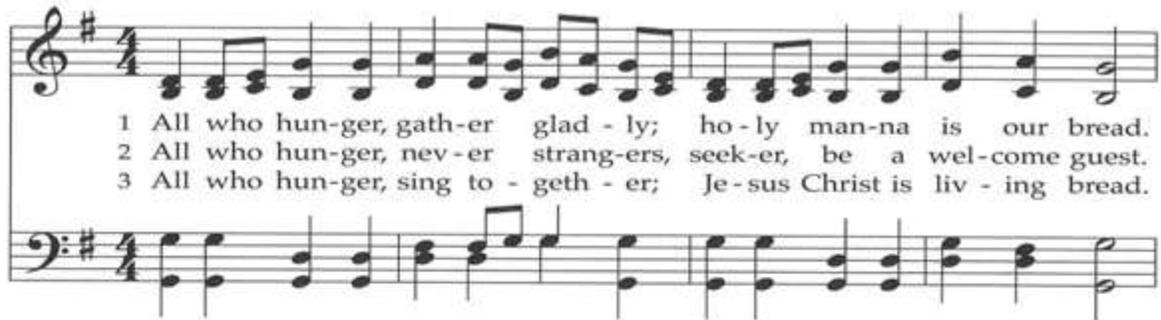
Becky Austin (financial): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203

Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

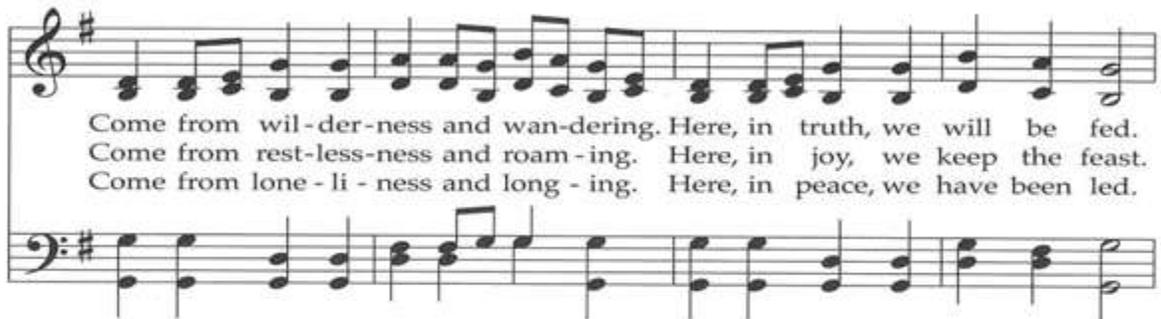
Here are a couple of hymns that caught my eye
as I looked through the new hymnal:

LORD'S SUPPER

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990
MUSIC: William Moore's *Columbian Harmony*, 1825
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

HOLY MANNA
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate harmonization, 396)

Jesus Entered Egypt

154

Capo 5: (Am) (G) (Am) (C) (Am) (Dm) (Am)
 Dm C Dm F Dm Gm Dm

1 Je - sus en - tered E - gypt flee - ing Her - od's hand,
 2 Je - sus was a mi - grant liv - ing as a guest
 3 Je - sus cross - es bor - ders with the wan - dering poor,

(C) (G) (Am) (C) (Dm)
 F C Dm F Gm

liv - ing as an a - lien in a for - eign land.
 with the friends and strang - ers who could of - fer rest.
 search - ing for a ref - uge, for an o - pen door.

(G) (Em) (Am) (G) (D) (G)
 C Am Dm C G C

Far from home and coun - try with his fam - i - ly,
 Do we hold wealth light - ly so that we can share
 Do our words and ac - tions an - swer Je - sus' plea:

(Am) (G) (Em) (Dm) (C) (G) (Am)
 Dm C Am Gm F C Dm

was there room and wel - come for this ref - u - gee?
 shel - ter with the home - less, and a - bun - dant care?
 "Give the low - ly wel - come, and you wel - come me"?

Human beings create divisions for many political, social, economic, and military reasons, but God is no respecter of the boundaries we erect. Jesus taught us to look for and respect the image of God that can be found in every human being, and to care for "the least of these."

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2007
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
 Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music © 1925 Oxford University Press

KING'S WESTON
 6.5.6.5.1