

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

January 2015

Dear Friends,

After Christmas can be a trying time – a let down. W.H. Auden writes:

*Well, so that is that.
Now we must dismantle the tree.
Putting the decorations back into their
Cardboard boxes –
Some have got broken – and carrying
them up to the attic.
The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down and burnt,
And the children got ready for school...
For the time being, here we all are.
The streets are much narrower than we remembered...*

But after Christmas can be a time of dedication and re-dedication. Howard Thurman writes:

*When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins;
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring Christ to all,
To make music in the heart.*

The calendar year unfolds before us in all its potential and mystery. With what attitude will you enter 2015? Jane Kenyon offers the right spirit.

*How much better it is
to carry wood to the fire
than to moan about your life.
How much better
to throw garbage
onto the compost, or to pin the clean
sheet on the line
with a gray-brown wooden clothes pin!*

Finally in the words of Dag Hammarskjöld as he wrote in his diary on a New Year's Eve:

*For all that has been, Thank you!
For all that is to come, YES!*

May your new year be filled with Thanks! And YES!

Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz
Senior Pastor



Dear friends,

I appreciated this blog piece by activist Kim Klein. I agree with her that we need to learn to share our Christian faith stories with confidence and humility, to cast a different story for others about what it means to be Christian.

Clover

Blessings,

Clover Beal

Associate Pastor, Director of Lay Leadership

I (Kim Klein) came out as a lesbian when I was about 19, and as anyone knows who has come out or been close to someone coming out, it is rarely a one time thing unless you are famous enough to be "outed" by the media. You tell some people, and they tell some people, but you don't know which ones they tell, so you tell some more. You are asked for the 1,000th time by a well meaning neighbor why you are not married, and you come out to them. Motives for coming out vary from pride to fear to exasperation. Why do I hesitate to say I am religious? So I have often asked myself why I am not more "out" as a religious person. The main one is that I am not an evangelist (although I'm not against trying to convert people). I truly believe that when Jesus said, "In God's house are many mansions," he meant that there are many many ways to find God and plenty of room for all seekers, including those who seek to be good people without any belief at all. Also, although I am a Christian, I rarely go to church and do not have a regular worship setting.

I also hesitate to say I am religious because my behavior is so often not that of a religious person: I gossip; I am often snarky and snide; I once found a \$20 bill and didn't declare it on my income tax . . . I am not a big sinner, but I am actually worse: I am a daily little hypocrite. Someone once asked me why I wasn't a kinder person since I am religious, and I thought, "If I weren't religious, I would probably be an extortionist or at least have run a few Ponzi schemes." Coming out as a religious person has gotten harder as the religious right has become almost mainstream. Although there is a religious left, we have a very small voice in the religious arena and we don't assert ourselves as we should. I believe in God and I have had many experiences of God moving in my life. I read the Bible and pray every morning for about half an hour and I pray often during the day. I believe that Jesus was sent

by God and shows us by words and example how we are to live. I think the question, "What would Jesus do?" is a useful one for determining an action. I have decided to counter the religious right by declaring the fact that I am a Christian. It is time for all of us who are religious (and not just spiritual) to come out, warts and all, and to say that we will not stand for all that is good in our religious traditions to be used to in the war on women and people of color. We will stand up against people claiming to be religious who also claim that corporations are people or that money is speech. And like all coming out stories, the price we pay for being out will be far less than remaining quiet.

Kim Klein is a legendary speaker on fundraising, taxes, social justice, and community-building. She is the author of five books, including her most recent, Reliable Fundraising in Unreliable Times. Read her at www.blueavocado.org.

From the Deacons

We wish to give a big thank you to everyone who generously contributed Christmas cards for our holiday mailing.

Please stop by the Card Ministry table when you are in Fellowship Hall. It only takes a few minutes to find just the right card and jot a note for a friend or loved one, and it can mean so much to hear from you. We will mail the card.

May your holidays be filled with peace and joy.

Carol Hopkins-Lutz, Deacon

Children's Ministry

December was a busy month as the children examined Advent and Christmas. The Children in Worship class looked at the Christmas story. The Pathways children participated in a special workshop where they explored some of the big questions of Christmas through video, games, and a service project. Thank you to all who were a part of helping to make our Children's Ministry programs such a huge success during the month of December.

- In our nursery, thank you to Clara Wilson and Zoe Hartz.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Josh and Pam Webster.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Mark Wedell, Joanne Shaner, and Matt and Sarah Winters.

Children's Christian Education

Children in Worship

Pre-School and Kindergarten (ages 3-5)

During January the children will be learning about Jesus' early life and his baptism. They will be exploring these stories through response crafts. Be sure to ask your children about the story each week.

Pathways to the Promise Land

Grades 1-5

Our Pathways program will begin the new year with the story of the *Feeding of the 5,000*. Miracles are the vehicle through which God is revealed. Just as God was revealed in the plagues of the Exodus story and through the Wilderness Experience, so God, in the form of Jesus, was revealed in the feeding of the 5,000. The children will learn that Jesus performed miracles as a way to reveal the presence of God. Their workshops will reflect the message that God has always provided and will continue to provide for our needs.

Dates to Know

January 4

KISS – Kids In Sunday Service

Children in Grades 1-5 will attend worship with their families to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

January 11

Gathering Time

Children in Grades 1-5 will begin in the Chapel at 11:00, then be dismissed to their workshops with their shepherds.

January 18 & 25

Pathways to the Promise Land

Children in Grades 1-5 will begin in worship, then be dismissed to their workshops.

Toys Needed

We are looking for new or gently used toys for our nursery. If you are interested in donating, please contact me. Thank you!

Blessings,

Dacia Prins

Director of Children's Ministries

*Warm Greetings & Blessed New Year
from FHC Youth Ministry.*

I am thrilled to be a part of the Youth Ministry Program here at Forest Hill Church. Thank you so much to Pastor John, Pastor Clover, session, and to the entire Forest Hill family for such a warm reception. It is truly a privilege to serve such a wonderfully dynamic and diverse congregation. As the Interim Director of Youth Education, my focus is to engage, encourage, and inspire the youth through faith-based curriculum and programming. We've already explored a variety of topics (like the Lord of the Rings) and even more challenging subjects such as how to bring the peace of Christ to places like Ferguson, MO.

FHC Youth, if you haven't been to Sunday morning Youth Education consider, this as your personal invitation. Parents, this is for you too! If you are looking for ways to get involved, I am always looking for facilitators to share their gifts with the Youth Ministry Program. AM Education takes place every Sunday morning from 9:30 am to 10:45 am in the Koinonia Room. On the first Sunday of every month we will have hot cocoa and cookies. Come join the conversations!

Congratulations to all who took part in the Christmas cookie sale! What a beautiful display of cookies you made, and such wonderful care was given to tending the table during the holiday bazaar. More than \$400 was raised, thanks to your teamwork! The funds will be set aside to help with costs associated with the summer mission trip.

And speaking of the mission trip, stay tuned! The Youth Core Team is considering two mission opportunities and we hope to share a plan with you in early January. If you have questions, please contact any member of the Youth Core Team: Sharon Shumaker, Elaine Turley, Kurt Haas, Mark Chupp, Annette Himes, Jane & Derek Duncan, Leigh Henderson, and Eric Muller-Gerard.

Shannon M. Headen

Director of Youth Education (Interim)

Office: 216-321-2660 Ext. 207

Email: shannon@fhcpresb.org

VM: 216-352-FHYM (3496)

"Love God, Change the World"



Music Notes

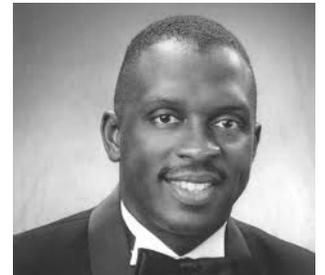
Dear Forest Hill Friends,



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 4, we look forward to singing *We Three Kings* as our three FHC kings journey down the aisle, decked out in their beautiful, flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapie) as they offer their glittering treasures to the Christ Child.

Continuing in our year-long series of celebrating American composers, the Chancel Choir will start the new year off by rehearsing music composed and arranged by **Moses George Hogan**. Hogan (March 13, 1957 – February 11, 2003) was an American composer and arranger of choral music, best known for his settings of African-American spirituals. His most famous collection is *The Oxford Book of Spirituals*, created in 2002. A native of New Orleans, Hogan was awarded a full scholarship to the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where he studied piano and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Music degree. Immediately after graduation, he began graduate studies at Juilliard School of Music, and later went to study classical music in Vienna, Austria. During his piano performance years, Hogan won several competitions including first place at the 28th Annual Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition in New York. He died at the age of 45 of a brain tumor. Though his life was brief, his music lives on in performances all over the world.



Soli Deo Gloria

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

Adult Education
Kerygma program's small group bible study
9:30 am Sunday mornings
January 4 - February 8

The Book of James: Faith and Works

Our seventh Kerygma all-church scripture study began in September with over 60 participants! We covered Paul's letter to the Galatians for seven weeks. The study was challenging and stimulating and wonderful! The feedback about the study is overwhelmingly positive.

On January 4, we begin our study of the four chapters of the book of **James**. James is a so-called counter-argument to the apostle Paul's insistence on justification by faith alone. Without works, James might say, is there any faith at all?

We begin our study of JAMES in South Hall on January 4 with an overview of the Epistle. Beginning January 11, we will break into small groups facilitated by two lay leaders each to delve deeper into its richness. Many of you who participated in the fall will continue on. The Kerygma workbook can be used again for James. If you did not participate in the fall, no problem! All are welcome to join in. More workbooks are available.

Sunday morning study groups provide a wonderful opportunity to learn more about bible study, to meet new people in a small group setting, and to grow in your faith. ALL different levels of students are welcome...from novices to Bible nerds! Watch for registrations.

Rev. Clover Beal

Wondering about the Advent Decorations?

A year ago, Eric Muller-Girard designed and installed the current Advent decorations for the first time. He wanted new decorations that would symbolize not only the festive nature of the season, but which, by the use of specific colors and materials, would also refer directly and symbolically to the essential elements of the historic God-becoming-flesh-event that we ***as a church*** celebrate .

So by definition, these decorations look different from those you might find in a store. He used royal tones of purple and gold but also emphasized the impoverished, rough, rural texture of unruly straw – the straw that cradled our Most Blessed Savior. Because, you see, we are that straw... as the Advent prophecy goes: "All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40: 6b–8)

If you look very carefully, you might find the hint of a six-pointed "Star of David" in two of our new wreaths. Meanwhile, the red ribbons, circular wreaths, candles, straw and evergreens are "traditional" at Advent and are still present in our new decorations ...though perhaps they are now seen in unexpected proportions. But whether "unexpected" or "long-expected," Christmas means a surprise for everyone!

We hope these visual elements speak symbolically to remind us of Jesus and of that to which he invites us. Contemplate the story of Christ's humble and impoverished entry into this world, the red blood shed by mother and son, the royalty and kingdom that he both left and brought to us.

May you be blessed this Christmas!

Greater Cleveland Congregations Called To Action

Forest Hill Church joined Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) a little over a year ago, and we have been very actively involved. Together with GCC's 40 other religious bodies, we've taken action to build power on behalf of the poor and powerless in our city.

- Early in 2014, we celebrated expansion of **Ohio's Medicaid program** to cover several hundred thousand people living at and just above poverty.
- We joined GCC's **Criminal Justice** team and 1,000 others in May to call for the County Prosecutor to support an expanded Drug Court and diversion of low-level non-violent juvenile or adult offenders away from felony charges and prison. Our "Shutting Down the Felon Factory" forum reviewed action steps with GCC issue advocates and nearly 50 people here in September.
- In response to GCC's "**Do Not Stand Idly By**" campaign, local law enforcement created a multi-jurisdiction crime gun unit, and GCC signed up 16 local mayors and public officials to support production of safer firearms. FHC member Barb Cloud gave heartfelt testimony on the impact of gun violence at a GCC gathering of 250 people in September, attended by the mayors of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, and covered by WKYC-TV3.
- Forest Hill Church members joined others from GCC to canvass Jennifer Blakeney's neighborhood for the successful **Cleveland Schools Bond Levy**.
- The Cleveland Metropolitan School District has met the requests of the community, with GCC support, for improvements in learning and safety at 3 schools.
- Diana Woodbridge joined **GCC's Strategy Team**, the body that provides overall leadership for the organization's social justice campaigns.

The Core Team wishes to thank the congregation for enthusiastic support of these efforts to bring greater justice to our community. You can see that FHC has been very involved! We hope to continue to build leadership from our congregation, supporting you in responding to your passion about the issues in our community. Additional opportunities to become involved are described on the following page .

- At year's end, new challenges await GCC as our community grapples with **Cleveland police-community relations, fatal shootings, and a U.S. Justice Department report.** What can we do to witness for the Prince of Peace in a seeming City of Violence? Speak to members of FHC's GCC Core Team if you are interested in growing your faith in answer to questions like this in 2015.
- **Greater Cleveland Congregations Training**
GCC University, a three-day organizer training for persons interested in faith-based social justice strategies, will be offered on President's Day weekend, February 15-16-17, 3 pm Sunday through 5 pm Tuesday at a location in NE Ohio. Lunch will be provided on Monday and Tuesday.

GCC University will be led by instructors from Industrial Areas Foundation and will include training on:

- strategic decision-making in Action Teams
- organizing Core Teams in the congregation
- initiating public relationships, and
- qualities and responsibilities of a leader.

Training is *free* to members of Forest Hill Church and other GCC affiliates. For more details and to register, contact Diana Woodbridge (216-291-3745 or dwoodbridge@sbcglobal.net).

Jennifer Blakeney and Dick Obermanns

Represent FHC at Homeless Stand Down

Once again, a group of Forest Hill Church members will participate in Homeless Stand Down on **Saturday, Jan. 24** at Cleveland's Public Auditorium. The event is held for individuals and families facing poverty and homelessness and gives them access to a variety of resources, including social service providers, medical screenings, meals, and winter clothing.

Forest Hill Church hopes to send a small group of volunteers to work as personal shoppers and help guests find basic need items. Last year's volunteers found the work rewarding and a meaningful way to connect with guests.

The group will start work at 7 am and will carpool to Public Auditorium. Volunteer hours will tentatively run through the early afternoon, and a fellowship lunch is planned immediately following.

Volunteers are needed for this important event! If you are interested in helping at Homeless Stand Down, please contact Jack Breisch (JBrei@hawken.edu).

Lane Baldwin, Ministry of Justice and Mission

Farewell, Abundance Acres

For each of the past five years, our Abundance Acres garden has produced an average of 900 pounds of fresh vegetables for our food pantry ministry.

But since becoming a member agency of the Cleveland Food Bank, our food pantry ministry now receives and serves over **10,000 pounds** of food every **month**, dwarfing the contribution from Abundance Acres.

At the same time, some of the most active Abundance Acre gardeners have moved away or moved on to other ministry (or gardening) opportunities.

Because of these changes, it is obvious we must become more efficient with our costs and the number of volunteer hours required. So, sadly, it is time to say farewell to our beautiful Abundance Acres garden.

But in the midst of giving thanks for and celebrating the garden ministry, we have a chance to consider what to do with our highly-enriched and well-designed vegetable garden? Should it be turned back to lawn? Or could it be re-imagined as a new and different garden, perhaps:

- a pocket community garden for members and neighbors?
- a floral cutting garden providing flowers for shut-ins?
- an outdoor labyrinth or other meditative space?

The future of the garden is entirely up to you, the FHC congregation. These winter months are the perfect time to "grow" some ideas. If you're feeling called to explore its future, please talk with a Justice and Mission member soon: Deanne Lentz, Robyn Hales, Anona Stack, Lane Baldwin, Jack Breisch, or Charity McDonald.

For more information about Abundance Acres, Please see our website (www.fhcpresb.org).

Peg Weissbrod

Save the Date: April 15, 2015

The Racial Core Team has the wonderful dilemma: we have to choose between two spring trips to offer to Forest Hill families. One is to the **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio**. The main tour will be featured around Solomon Northrup, a free man sold into slavery in the 19th century whose life was the basis for the book and movie **12 Years a Slave**.

The second option is to visit **the First Congregational Church and the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit, Michigan**. The First Congregational Church, beautiful in its own right, will present an re-enactment of the underground railroad in which we will be passengers. The Charles H. Wright Museum has artifacts which should interest young and old alike.

Both trips are one day in duration. Expect to have a quick breakfast on the road and a stop for dinner on the return.

The most important thing is that we attend the place that interests you the most (the trip not taken this year could be taken another year, or buy a smaller group). If you are interested in either trip, please e-mail me with your choice.

Barb Cloud

Anne Smith, Sheryl Dugard – co-leaders

(Barb: Faithleader52@yahoo.com or 216-321-9112; if no answer, please leave your name and trip preference)

Black History Month
Black Innovation: Past, Present and Future

January 18, 2015 – Martin Luther King Sunday, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Black History Month Committee presentation on MLK and Gandhi

February 1, 2015 – Hip Hop 2.0; 12:30 - 2 pm; Lead by LaDon Headon

February 8, 2015 – Cajun Treats and Jazz music – 12:30 pm to 2 pm
Youth Night, 5 – 7:30 pm – Mardi Gras Masks activity, Fat Tuesday

February 15, 2015 – Challenges of gaining entrance and mobility in nursing medicine – 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Speaker: Dr. Ron Hickman

Dr. Ronald Hickman, Ph.D., RN, is a young African American Nurse Researcher and Assistant Professor of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University who is a real rising star. More information may be found on [his faculty page](#).

February 20, 2015 - Friday Movie Night - 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Family friendly night; hot dogs, pizza and popcorn. Short movie discussion after film.

February 22, 2015 – Soul Food Pot Luck – 12:30 - 3:00 pm

Dr. Faye Gary will speak at 11 am worship.

BOOK: *The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks* AVAILABLE NOW!

Speaker: Dr. Faye Gary

Dr. Faye Gary, Ph.D., RN is an African American female trailblazer. She is the Medical Mutual of Ohio Professor for Vulnerable and At-Risk Persons at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Leading book discussion on Henrietta Lacks and what the National Institute of Health recommendations for future research protocols.

Evening Worship Service: A celebration of African Music, 7 – 9 pm
Poetry, Stories and Music, led by Caleb Wright

Featuring: Mother Willie Mae Wright and Peter Williams, and others.

Living in the Spirit!
An 8-Week “Inner Pilgrimage” and
Prayer Experience

New Lenten Experience at Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian!

8 Sundays, Feb. 1 through March 22, 2015, 5-7:00 pm

Limited to 35 participants Cost:\$40.00

Registration Deadline: Jan. 25, 2015

Living in the Spirit:

a Scripture-based spiritual-practice small group series based on the insights of Ignatius of Loyola promoting deeper knowledge of Christ.

For 8 Sundays in Lent you will:

- Meet with your trained table facilitator and a consistent small group
- Attend both small faith-sharing groups and larger-group presentations
- Learn different methods of prayer and experiment with daily personal prayer practices.

The series is for “beginning spiritual explorers” to “seasoned faith leaders.” It is progressive and cumulative: please register only if you can attend all or nearly all of the 8 weekly sessions.

Special Informational Event: Sunday, Jan. 11, 12:30 pm

Questions? Contact Rev. Clover Beal
(216-321-2660 or pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org)

Living in the Spirit Registration
Please Return to FHC Office or Offering Plate

Name _____

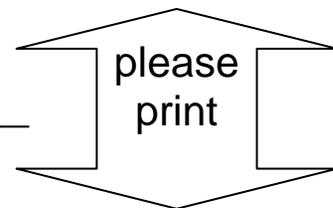
Church I attend _____

Address _____

City/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



*When registering, please include \$40 cash or check payable to Forest Hill Church with **LITS** in the memo line.*

Please register no later than Jan. 25, 2015

NOTE: Registration Fees are transferrable, but non-refundable.

Pastoral Letter to White Americans

by Jim Wallis (editor, *Sojourners Magazine*)

Many white Americans tend to see this problem as unfortunate *incidents* based on individual circumstances. Black Americans see a *system* in which their black lives matter less than white lives. That is a fundamental difference of experience between white and black Americans, between black and white parents, even between white and black Christians. The question is: Are we white people are going to listen or not?

White Americans talk about how hard and dangerous police work is — that most cops are good and are to be trusted. Black Americans agree that police work is dangerously hard, but also have experienced systemic police abuse of their families. All black people, especially black men, have their own stories. Since there are so many stories, are these really just isolated incidents? We literally have two criminal justice systems in America — one for whites and one for blacks.

Are there police uses of force that are understandable and justifiable? Of course there are. If our society wasn't steeped in a gun culture, many of these shootings could be avoided. But has excessive, unnecessary, *lethal* force been used over and over again, all across the country, with white police killing unarmed black civilians? Yes it has, and the evidence is overwhelming. But will we white people listen to it?

Will white parents try to imagine how it would feel to have “the talk,” to tell their own children that they shouldn't trust those who are supposed to serve and protect them? That's hard to listen to, hard to hear, hard to recognize the legitimacy of other parents' experiences when they are so different from your own.

It's time to listen — for us white Americans to listen to black Americans; for white parents to listen to black parents; for white Christians to listen to black Christians. This may be the most important thing we have ever had to do: to listen, really listen.

Do we believe what we say about the unity of “the body of Christ” or not? In the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of one body with many members.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... For the body does not consist of one member but of many... As it is, there are many parts, yet one body... that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (RSV)

Another version of 1 Corinthians 12:26 translates, “If one part suffers every part shares its suffering.” What would it mean to share in the suffering of our brothers and sisters of color who suffer from a racialized criminal justice system?

Racial reconciliation is a commitment at the heart of the gospel. If we say we belong to Christ, that mission of reconciliation is ours too. What does racial reconciliation mean now in the face of America’s racial divide over policing and the criminal justice system?

Let’s get practical. If you have African Americans at your workplace or at your church, ask them to please talk to you about this, to tell you their stories — then listen. If you don’t have any black or other members of color in your church, it’s time to ask why. Reach out — and ask your pastor to reach out — to black and Hispanic churches in your community or city. We must find safe and authentic ways to hear each others’ stories, across the racial boundaries of our churches.

Reach out sensitively to black parents at your children’s schools. Ask to hear their stories. Talk to the black parents of your children’s classmates and teammates. Or maybe it’s time to realize not having children of color at your children’s school or on their teams is a big part of the problem. Parents talking to parents and hearing each others’ stories may be the most important key to moving forward in the church and in the nation.

White people need to stop talking so much, stop defending the systems that protect and serve them, and stop saying “I’m not a racist.” If white people turn a blind eye to systems that are racially biased, we can’t be absolved

from the sin of racism. Listen to the people the criminal justice system fails to serve and protect; try to see the world as they do. Loving our neighbors means identifying with their suffering, meeting them in it, and working together to change it. And, for those of us who are parents, loving our neighbors means loving other people's kids as much as we love our own.

*Jim Wallis is president of Sojourners. His book, **The (Un)Common Good: How the Gospel Brings Hope to a World Divided**, the updated and revised paperback version of On God's Side, is available now. Follow Jim on Twitter @JimWallis.*

Submitted by Pastors John Lentz and Clover Beal

News of Our Church Family

Births

Maya Garrett, born November 8, joined her adoptive parents Beth and Dave Garrett on November 17.

Abel Joseph Garache Lafferty, son of Christy Lafferty-Garache and Abel Garache, was born November 15 in Managua, Nicaragua. Abelito is the grandson of Sue and Scott Lafferty.

New Address

Charity McDonald
3023 Somerton Rd
Cleveland Hts OH 44118

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Bill and Kay Currie, Flora Dannemiller, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron and Florence Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Margie and Dwight Stauffer, Elaine Tapié

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

Marion Frederick (Jane Frederick's mother), Arlene and Jack Quinn, Dennis Wedding (Jeannine Gury's brother).

Care Group

The Eden 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 Eden CARE Group are:

Carol Leslie, Deacon leader	Sue & Scott Lafferty
Doris Allen	Suzanne Marcy
Nathan & Lane Baldwin	Steve Marunowski &
Mary Ball	Peg Weissbrod
Clover & Tim Beal	Clayton & Julie Minder
Dave & Chris Bell	Ron Polderman & Carol Smith
Jane & Derek Duncan & family	Lorraine Ranchod
Jean & Scott Duncan	Elizabeth Shaw
Jeff Dyck & Lara Troyer & family	Jeff & Anne Smith
Julie Lafferty Ely	Quentin Smith & Sylvia Herd
Kris & Bill Fay	Tammy Steele
Carrie Fister	Elaine Tapié
Tim & Leigh Henderson	Elaine Turley
Bob & Pat Jeffreys	Paul & Katie Weissbrod

Ushers in February

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

Volunteer Hours in November

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Pat Jenkins, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, Elspeth Peterjohn, Richard Peterjohn and Betty Clark –worked a total of 66 hours in November. Thank you all!

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Forest Hill Church will be held after worship on Sunday, January 25, 2015. Lunch will be served. All are welcome to attend; only active members vote.

FHC New Officers – 2015

Clerk of Session

Jeff Smith (E)

Jeff and his wife Anne have been members of FHC for 27 years. Jeff has served as an Elder on Justice and Mission, Trustees, Stewardship and Vocation and Leadership ministries, and he has led the nominating committee. He is active in outreach to Haiti, the Labre Project in East Cleveland, and Family Promise. He was a healthcare administrator until his retirement in 2013. Jeff and Anne (who is also very active in the church) have 7 children and 8 grandchildren.

Deacons

Kathy Carr

Kathy has been a member of FHC for a year, during which time she has participated in Labre, Bible study, Adult Education, the chancel choir and Greater Cleveland Congregations. In her professional life she was a teacher in East Cleveland, Moravian Academy in PA, Hawken School in Cleveland and Maumee Valley Country Day School in Toledo. Kathy and her husband Bruce will celebrate their 47th anniversary in May and have 4 children and 2 (almost 3!) grandchildren.

Barbara Hansen

Barb has been an FHC member for 56 years, during which time she has served as an Elder, Deacon, Clerk of Session and on the Ministries of Worship and of Stewardship. She was a Stephen Minister and participates in Voices in Bronze, Iris Circle and The Group. Barb is on the Board of Directors of Breckenridge Village; she has four children and seven grandchildren.

Jason Hidek

Jason has attended FHC for 14 years and has been a member for 13 – he and Christina were married here shortly after they joined. He has served as a trustee, usher, softball team manager and on the Church Growth committee. He works as a project manager and consultant in the financial sector and is a huge Pittsburgh Pirates fan. He and Christina have two boys, Benjamin and Ryan.

Gretchen Reynolds

Gretchen has been a member of FHC for 2 years, She volunteers with Abundance Pantry food cupboard and for Family Promise; she serves on the Greater Cleveland Congregations Core Team focusing on education. In her professional life she worked, among other places, as the associate director of a very active Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Evansville IN. Gretchen is especially interested in strategic planning and in assuring that public education thrives in our community and elsewhere.

Ministry of Education and Spiritual Formation

Sharon Shumaker (Elder)

Kurt Haas

Pat Jenkins

Dustin Prins

Dustin and his wife Dacia first joined FHC in 2004; they moved away in 2006 and rejoined when they returned to Cleveland a year ago. At FHC, Dustin teaches both youth and adult education classes. He is an assistant professor at Kent State University and a foot and ankle surgeon. He and his wife Dacia, FHC's Director of Children's Ministries, have been married 16 years and have 3 children.

Ministry of Justice and Mission

Charity McDonald (Elder)

Charity has been a member of FHC for a year. She sings with the Chancel Choir, went on the most recent mission trip to Haiti, and helps organize the Young Adults group. She is a returned Peace Corps volunteer and currently works in banking while in graduate school at CSU. She is a board member of the Home Repair Resource Center, a backyard chicken enthusiast, and the sister of last summer's intern, Rachel McDonald.

Dale Dannefer
Quentin Smith

Ministry of Stewardship

Ahren Stock (E)

Ahren has been a member of FHC for 4 years, and has participated in Kerygma Bible study, the pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece, Faith Leader and the Labre Project. He has served as a Deacon and ad hoc music group organizer. He plays trumpet and teaches instrumental music at Hawken School. Ahren is the son of two (semi-)retired Presbyterian pastors and the middle brother of 2 wonderful sisters.

Melanie Alban

Melanie transferred her membership from Rocky River PC this fall. She is a retired accountant and an active volunteer.

Jessica Kelley-Moore

Jocelyn Stang

Joy has attended FHC since before 1948. She belonged to the youth group and met her husband Lou here. A move to Hudson took her away for 20 years; she returned to FHC when she moved back to this area. She has been a Deacon and on the nominating committee. Joy participates in The Group, Hilltoppers, Abundance Pantry and sings in the Chancel Choir. She is an accountant and worked as a payroll coordinator in the South Euclid-Lyndhurst schools until her retirement. Joy has 4 children and 10 grandchildren; she loves to travel, read, sing, swim and garden.

Trustees

Peter Eloff

Peter and his wife Kathryn have been members of FHC for 36 years. Peter has sung in the choir and served as an Elder, a Trustee and a member of the Stewardship ministry. He is an avid Adult Ed participant. Peter retired from General Electric; he and Kathryn have been married for 50 years, have 3 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Nancy Lyon-Stadler

Nancy has been a member of FHC for 2 years. She has participated in Bible study and occasionally plays the trumpet during worship services. She is a civil engineer, has 2 sons (Ben and Drew), and is on the boards of Build Up Greater Cleveland and Ruffing Montessori School. Nancy is a skier and triathlete.

Ministry of Vocation and Leadership Church Growth

Lia Clement

Lia has been member of FHC for 3 years and attended for 2 years before that. She has participated in Faith Leader, Bible and Bagels, Greater Cleveland Congregations, and several workshops and retreats. Lia was an employee trainer for Home Depot until she retired; she enjoys riding her motorcycle, spending time with family, and walking her dog.

Nominating Committee

Doris Allen

Barb Cloud

John Dugard

Karen Loughridge

Karen has been a member of FHC for 32 years. She is an Elder and Deacon and has served on the ministries of Education and Justice and Mission and on the Nominating Committee. She has been a teacher in Pathways, an office volunteer, a member of Iris Circle, Hilltoppers and Faith Leader; she works with the Labre Project and Abundance Pantry. Until she retired, Karen taught elementary school in Shaker Heights.

Ron Register

Ministry of Worship

Derek Duncan (Elder)

Sandy Schultz

Sandy has been a member of FHC for 45 years. She has served as an Elder, Deacon, and Trustee; she has been on the Nominating Committee, the Associate Pastor Search Committee and the Peacemaking Taskforce. Sandy has participated in the Women's Association, Iris Circle, Faith Leader, and as a church school teacher, lay reader, usher and gardener. Before she retired she worked as a staff assistant in Human Resources in the CH-UH school district. Sandy enjoys family and friends, gardening, reading, yoga and the arts.

Sundays in January

9:00 Child care begins
9:30 Adult education
 Youth education (Confirmation begins Jan. 25)
 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 (Jan. 11)
11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land (gr. 1-5)
 Jan. 4: Children stay in worship for communion
12:15 Coffee Hour
 Sine Nomine Choir (Gr. 6-12) Jan. 11, 18
5:40 Labre Project (Jan. 11, 25)

January 4: 2 Christmas Observance of Epiphany and the Procession of the three Kings 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:15 Petitions of the People	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12
January 11: 1 Epiphany Baptism of the Lord 12:15 Living in the Spirit Information session	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11
January 18: 2 Epiphany MLK Sunday 12:15 Blood Pressure check Black History Month presentation: Ghandi and King	1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51
January 25: 3 Epiphany 12:15 Lunch and Annual Meeting of the Congregation	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE LEADERS

WHEN IS THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING RECEIVED?

The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season. However, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the Christmas Joy Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year.

HOW IS MY GIFT USED?

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

- The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
- Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

FAITH GUIDES

*O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me. — Psalm 43:3*



Christmas Joy
OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church and supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Three ways to give to the Christmas Joy Offering



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Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10



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