

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

October 2014

Blessing of the Pets
Saturday, October 4, 5:00 p.m.

All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir!

Dear Friends,

In November of last year, the Lentz family was changed forever. 2-month-old Leo came into our lives. Part German shepherd and part yellow Lab, Leo stole everyone's heart except for our cat Karas'! (The cat has still not forgiven us!) Ever since Leo arrived, I have wanted to plan a "Blessing of the Pets" service.

Therefore, on Saturday night, October 4th at 5:00 pm on the front steps of the church for the entire world to see, we will hold a pet blessing service. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

St. Francis (12th C.), whose feast day is October 4, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town of Assisi. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

Francis wrote an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for St. Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her cat!

Roman Catholic priest Kevin Mackin writes in his article "Why We Bless Pets" for American Catholic.com:

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

At the service each animal is welcomed with a special prayer. At some services the pet is gently sprinkled with water. I am not sure what the liturgy will look like. Likewise I am not quite sure what we will do if it rains (everyone gets sprinkled).

No matter, mark Saturday, October 4 at 5:00 for the Blessing of the Pets service. Leo and Karas personally invite you and your pet to join them!



The Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr
Senior Pastor



Dear friends,

I am reading the book ***Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less*** by Greg McKeon.

Clower

McKeon's premise is that as productive employees we've over-focused on time management skill development rather than on developing "*the systematic discipline for discerning what is absolutely essential, then eliminating everything that is not, so we can make the highest possible contribution toward things that really matter.*" What I find both delightful and fascinating are that these "new" propositions are "old" theological concepts and spiritual practices.

The Christian church has been teaching the Discipline of Discernment as a spiritual practice for centuries. The Discipline of Discernment is what we teach in the Faith Leader program. We are called to foster and equip believers to discover their spiritual gifts and God-given passions so that they can measure what they give their energy to against the plumb line of what gives them joy. We believe, in theological terms, that we are called by God to follow our passions, to be faithful stewards of what gifts God has given us, so that we may happily exercise permission to say NO to those things that foster neither our health nor the health of the community. It doesn't mean that doing what we love won't be hard work and won't tire us out. What we should find is that doing what we truly love and are gifted for will give us more energy!

My own perennial sense of responsibility for others' happiness and my tendency toward guilt both challenge my ability to say Yes to what I love and to say No to that which does not bring me energy. I want to say Yes to many invitations, possibilities, and activities! Making choices about what is truly essential isn't usually about choosing between something good or bad. It's most often between good and more good. How do we discern between good and great? How do we discern between something that is good and that which is essential—for us, for loved ones, or for work? What challenges your Yes and your No?

The spiritual practice of Discernment requires discipline: to be quiet, to rest, to engage in a faithful community that will reflect back to us our gifts, and to choose to withdraw from frenetic activity that clouds our judgments and ability to hear our deepest voice. These are exactly the suggestions that Stanford educated, MBA trained, corporate leadership guru Greg McKeon suggests as well! Isn't it interesting and refreshing that non-religious leaders are sharing the truth that attending to one's deepest voice and claiming one's essential passions are what makes a person the most effective in his or her work and life? God cares about what is essential for us – for all of us, believers and non-believers alike.

May God be with us as we each attempt to discern what is essential for our time commitments as we move into a busy autumn. Let's keep each other accountable by asking each other, Is what you are doing bringing you energy and deep joy?

Blessings,

Clover Beal

Associate Pastor, Director of Lay Leadership

Children's Ministries

All of our Children's Ministry programs are off to a great start! The Monticello Wing is once again buzzing with the sights and sounds of children and their families. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped to kick off our year. The volunteers' dedication of time and sharing of their gifts and talents with our children are what make our Children's Ministry programs a success. A big thank you for the past month goes to:

- Libby Dolan, Kathy Carr, Veronica Chapman, and Joel and Kate Kolmodin who served in the *nursery*.
- Lisa Koops, Margie Ravas, and Sandy Ladebue who taught in the *Children in Worship* class.

- Kate Burleigh, Kara Schellenberg, and Danielle Cosgrove who taught the rotations for *Pathways to the Promise Land*.
- Mark Wedell, Diane Moyer and Jeremy Ryman, and Jed Koops who shepherded our young flock in *Pathways to the Promise Land*.

Children's Christian Education

Children in Worship Pre-School and Kindergarten (ages 3-5)

During the month of September the children have looked at stories about The Good Shepherd and The Lord's Supper in preparation for World Communion Sunday on October 5, in which they will be brought into the service right before communion to celebrate with their families. In October the children will explore and participate in stories about Creation, Noah, and Abram. Be sure to ask your children what the story was about and have them share their response craft with you!

Pathways to the Promise Land Grades 1-5

The next rotation theme centers on the Plagues and Passover. The children will appreciate God's power and how God uses people to carry out God's promises. In their workshops they will explore the Exodus story through games, reenactment, rhyme and art.

Be a part of all the fun!

Are you looking for a way to get connected and to share your talents and gifts? Are you crafty? Do you like to decorate? Do you like to throw a party?

There are so many ways to help out in our Children's Ministry programs. Don't be shy to ask how you can be part of all the fun we are having over in the Monticello Wing! If you want to be part of all the buzz, behind the scenes or upfront, please contact Dacia Prins (216-321-2660 or dacia@fhcpresb.org) for more information.

Dates to Know

October 5 KISS – Kids In Sunday Service

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

October 12 Gathering Time – Plagues and Passover

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

October 19 and 26, Pathways to the Promise Land

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

Blessings,

Dacia Prins

Director of Children's Ministries

"Living in the Spirit" is coming to FHC in early 2015!

It's official... so save the date(s)! "Living in the Spirit" is an eight week fellowship program designed to help you experience God – *personally and directly* – through prayer, reflection and small-group conversations. Weekly meetings are scheduled for 5-7 pm on 8 Sunday evenings, starting February 1. Funded by the FHC Endowment Fund, approved by Session and pastors, and offered in collaboration with an experienced team of ecumenical leaders, "Living in the Spirit" is sure to be a groundbreaking event for Forest Hill ... and we hope ... for you! Be a part of it.

Availability is limited to 35 participants. Much more information will follow in coming months.

Eric Muller-Girard

Music Notes



The choirs are off to a fine start! I'd like to congratulate the new **Chancel Choir officers**: Beth Zych, President; Ginie Mast, Vice President and Social Chair; Joy Stang, Secretary; Bob Jeffreys, Treasurer; Nancy Grube, Librarian; and Carl Jenks, Poet Laureate.

And congratulations to the new **Sine Nomine Choir officers**: Grant Heineman, President, and Will Burleigh, Vice President. The new **Descant Choir officers** are: Colin Burleigh, President, and Devyn Etling, Vice President. Our **Voices in Bronze** President is Carol Gifford.

Anyone else out there interested in joining a choir? We'd love to include you in our warm and loving choir families! (and you won't get elected to office 'till next year.)

I'd like to welcome all our **new choir members** (as of this writing on September 11): In the Chancel Choir, we welcome new soprano Tammy Steele. The Sine Nomine Choir welcomes James Birdsell, Rowan Trammell and Alex Shaner. In the Descant Choir, we welcome Eilidh Horn, Henry Dyck, Zen Headen, Berkeley Trammell and Mallory Prins. Voices in Bronze, the handbell choir, welcomes Paul Jennings, Julie Wolfram Smith and Carol Wedell.

On Sunday, October 5, we'll celebrate **World Communion Sunday** with global music and visual arts as we are mindful of the great world-wide community of saints. Many thanks to Eric Muller-Girard and Gary Sampson for assisting with this service. They have amazing eyes for visual feasts that glorify God!

Our first AWE (Alternative Worship Experience) will take place on Sunday, October 12 when we welcome the **Forest City String Band**. We'll be listening to and singing traditional American songs accompanied by instruments generally associated with bluegrass bands, so hold on to your hats!

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson, 216-870-2729

annew@fhcpresb.org

Adult Education

All are welcome!

Kerygma Small Group Bible Study

Galatians: Faith and Works

September 21 - November 16

Sundays, 9:30 am

Our seventh Kerygma, all-church scripture study began September 7. Paul's letter to the Galatians is one of the undisputed and earliest Pauline letters typically dated mid 1st century. It is an exceptional representation of the argument for faith in Christ over the Law as the way to salvation. In January, we will be studying the four chapters of James as the counter-argument offering Works as the demonstration and witness of faith. Without works is there any faith at all?

Beginning September 21, we started small groups facilitated by lay leaders and began delving deeper in the six chapters of the Epistle. You may still join – all are welcome to participate in the wonderful opportunity to learn more about bible study, to meet new people in a small group setting, and to grow in your faith. We welcome all levels of students, from novice to Bible nerds. Please contact Pastor Clover Beal for more information (216-321-2660 or pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org).

Shifting Gears in the Second Half of Life

October 5 - November 2

Sundays, 12:30 pm

Bodwell Hall

This will be a five-week course for those facing retirement and for those whose parents are facing issues of aging. How does a person navigate the passage to retirement and beyond with confidence and optimism? Topics will include everything from housing options and important legal documents to wellness, spirituality, and reinventing yourself in your older years. The class will meet after church, from 12:30 – 2:00 PM, starting Sunday, October 5 in Bodwell Hall. Contact Chris Henry (cehenry@ameritech.net or 216-392-1563) or Consuelo Heineman (rogedoge@aol.com or 216-371-6395) for more information.

Christianity for Seekers (and others)

led by Rev. Dr. John Lentz

October 19 - November 23

Sundays, 5 pm

South Hall

Have you been wondering just what a progressive Christian faith is about? Maybe you have no idea about Christianity and would like to learn a little; maybe you've joined the church recently, or you've returned to church as an adult, or you've been in the church for decades ~ and you realize that you'd like to learn more about what you're doing. This could be the class for you! Join us from 5 – 7 pm Sundays, beginning October 19. Please contact Pastor John Lentz for more information (pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org or 216-321-2660).

We encourage you to invite friends outside the church!

From FHC's summer intern, Rachel McDonald:

To the Congregation at Forest Hill -

Thank you so much for your kind welcome this summer. I am grateful for the chance to learn and serve. Your parting gifts to me were incredibly generous and very much appreciated.

All the best, and I look forward to seeing you whenever I'm back to visit.

*Blessings,
Rachel*

Rachel may be reached at stripeswithplaid@gmail.com



Earthkeeping

This month's contribution to Earth Care, dear readers, has three components.

The first is that scientists have recently reported that CO2 atmospheric levels have now very nearly reached the 400 ppm level, well above the 350 threshold which was considered manageable, and the *rate* of rise is increasing at an alarming rate. This atmospheric blanket which the emissions create is a harbinger of global warming and is inextricably tied into climate change.

Secondly, Forest Hill Church and Fairmount Church, both leading Earth Care Congregations, are together providing a contributing sponsorship of the forthcoming **EarthKeeping Summit** (which is geared toward faith-based communities) to be held in Columbus at Ohio State University on October 12-13. Tours, workshops, and a speaker Sunday evening, focusing on climate change and faith-based decisions, will highlight this summit.

*Dr. Kathrine Hayhoe, a leading climate scientist and communicator, will be speak at the Summit on the evening of October 12th. Dr. Hayhoe was recently named to TIME's 2014 list of the 100 most influential people in the world and appeared in the climate change documentary Years of Living Dangerously. She co-authored a book with her husband, an evangelical pastor, **Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-based Decisions.***

Look for more information on this event on the Earth Care 'blue board' at church and in pre-service announcements. It would be great to have several FHC members attend this important conference. Details will be on the trifold 'blue board' in Fellowship Hall or hallway.

Thirdly, I am calling for interest, ideas, volunteers, and referrals to any local experts you might have contacts with concerning our possibility to put together an “Earth Care Fair” next spring, an event which was proposed in the September Tower. The Fair, to be held in Fellowship Hall on a Saturday, would feature table-station information and ‘ask the expert’ opportunities to learn about and focus on such subjects as air and water quality, fracking, alternative energy sources, best energy utilization, sustainable and eco-friendly food production, wildlife conservation, responsible forestry, and advanced recycling. Let me know how you can help!

Dave Neff, Earth Care Green Team Leader



It’s Party Time Again!

Saturday, October 11, 7 – 10 pm at Forest Hill Church

Come to the “Kingdom Party” celebrating Pastor John Lentz’s 20th anniversary as senior pastor of Forest Hill Church – there will be dancing with LaDon Headen as DJ, storytelling about our fearless leader, refreshments prepared by Morag Keefe, and much more.

All are invited!

Volunteers Needed: Labre To Host Fall Cookout in East Cleveland

Cliff Williams opened the doors to Our Family Home Center (OFHC) two years ago. While the location and programs have changed and evolved since then, the mission has stayed the same: to provide food and clothing and a community for East Cleveland residents that need a boost.

“We’re an open center, no matter what form of life people are coming from,” Williams said about the non-profit now located near the intersection of Euclid and Lee. “We mostly serve folks in the neighborhood, and lots of homeless. That’s who I dedicate my services to.”



And that’s how Forest Hill Church got involved. Labre, a project named after Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, aims to feed the homeless and offer them friendship. It is a relatively new ministry at the church and draws 10-15 volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of each month to OFHC to feed and connect with neighborhood residents. Labre dinners are lively, and along with a shared hot meal between residents and volunteers comes music, storytelling and laughter all around.

“Those who come to the Center find something good,” Forest Hill member and Labre volunteer Kathy Carr said. “I like that I can share a meal with people and actually now know some of the regulars. Hanging around with everyone, seeing the needs, and then walking into our house afterward ... it’s a mix of emotions to be sure.”

For the last year, Labre has hosted a semiannual cookout celebration to bring even more of the neighborhood together. This fall the tradition will continue with a cookout scheduled for **5 pm on Sunday, Oct. 12** in front of OFHC. Typically 80-100 people attend the event, including families and children. Chicken, burgers, and hot dogs are cooked on an outdoor grill and the Salvation Army food truck and volunteers bring side dishes to complete the meal. There are games for children and music for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone is invited to volunteer! If you're interested in getting involved with the Labre fall cookout or a "regular" dinner, contact Jack Breisch (JBrei@hawken.edu). Labre also supplies gently used clothing to OFHC, and a drop-off bin is located in Fellowship Hall.

"I continue to visit and participate [with Labre] as much as I am able because of several factors," Forest Hill member and Labre volunteer Kay Dunlap said. "The first is that this ministry aligns with the core values of FHC and its mission statement. The second is that the center clearly serves a vulnerable population in the community. The third is quite simply that it is a meaningful and user-friendly way to share with like-minded volunteers. Potential volunteers should come willing to just *be* with others and to be flexible in recognizing that our presence speaks volumes."

Lane Baldwin
Ministry of Justice and Mission

Be an FHC Lay Reader!

Interested in being a lay reader in worship but not sure what to do? There will be another opportunity on October 12 to attend a brief orientation on "How To Be an FHC Lay Reader!" In 30 minutes we will cover everything from how to sign up to how you pronounce "Merodachbaladan" (2 Kings 20:12). Drop by the sanctuary after church (12:15-12:45 pm) and we'll answer all your Lay Reading questions and get you comfortable with the mic. Questions? Contact Derek Duncan, duncan5oh@yahoo.com .

Already experienced and want to sign up? Go to VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/8fqGmN> and pick an upcoming Sunday.

Derek Duncan
Ministry of Worship

From the Trustees

Financial statements went out to the congregation recently. Thanks to your regular pledge payments, we are continuing to meet our goal of maintaining a steady stream of income sufficient to meet the church's ongoing expenses without going into a financial deficit. Please accept the Trustees' sincere thanks for continuing to allow us to maintain our wonderful place of worship responsibly!

Eric Rich
Trustee

News of Our Church Family

Marriages

Amy Christine Fuller and David Lazarus Waynik were married on August 31, 2014. Dr. Lentz officiated. Amy is the daughter of Chris and Daniel Fuller.

New Contact Information

Grace Uhle (correct phone number): 216-268-8968

New emails only

Don and Betty Clark: don34uk@gmail.com

Please remember these homebound members in your prayers:

Dick Bloomquist, Bill Currie, Pat Drake, Marge Drollinger, Betty Farnfield, Iris Gilbert, Ron and Florence Klein, Emelia McGuire, Joyce Peters, Elaine Tapié

Please pray for those with ongoing prayer concerns:

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

Care Group

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

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Kemp Jaycox, Deacon leader	Morag & Tom Keefe
Jon Adams & Pam Conover	Elizabeth Kosnik
Katie & Chris Batcheller	Karen & Clyde Loughridge
Dick Bloomquist	Ted Mueller
Carole Boyd	Bethany & Joe Pinzone
Clarence & Elsie Boyd	Ron Register
Chris & Rhonda Chapman	Jean Reinhold
Kay & Bill Currie	Baldwin Sawyer
Peter & Kathryn Eloff	Mollie & Dick Secor
Sharon Hansen	Dorothy Turick
Shannon & LaDon Headen & family	Carolyn Vrtunski
Kemp Jaycox & Cindy Fink & family	Mark & Julie Waring & family
Joan Kandare	Beth & Tom Zych & family

Ushers in October

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

Volunteer Hours in October

The office volunteers – Nancy Grube, Joan Bacon, Beth Zych, Jane Ishler, Cathy Ghiandoni, Anne Smith, and Elspeth Peterjohn – worked a total of 51 hours in August. Thank you all!

Special thanks to Peg Weissbrod, Nancy Grube, Joan Bacon and Rosanna Sprague who covered extra hours when Lynda was away.

Thanks also to those who help assemble the *TOWER* for mailing: Marilyn Wilk, Jane Ishler, Gale Poor and Betty Clark.

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (60s – 70s): Kingdom Party

The Group the join in the celebration of Pastor John Lentz's 20th anniversary at FHC. Celebrate at the Kingdom Party, Saturday October 11 at 7:00 p.m. Stay alert for details!

October 11, FHC, 7-10 pm

Hilltoppers (retired) : Lunch and Concert

Hilltoppers will meet at The Tavern Company for lunch after church on October 12. Then we're off to the Suburban Symphony concert (beginning at 3:30 pm) to enjoy another delightful pops concert held at University School's Shaker campus.

Carpooling from the church is recommended for those attending both activities. For more information and reservations, call or email Carol Scott (216-932-0313 or caroleight@yahoo.com) by Thursday, October 9 for lunch. Expect a free-will offering at the concert.

October 12, Tavern Co. and Suburban Symphony, 12:30 pm

Iris Circle (all women of the church): Shopping and lunch

Iris Circle will meet on October 21 at 10:30 am at Ten Thousand Villages shop, 12425 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. After shopping we will walk just a few blocks to Nighttown (12387 Cedar Road) for lunch and conversation. If this walk is difficult for any one I will be happy to drive you. Please call or e-mail Nancy Burcham (burcham@roadrunner.com or 440-446-0832).

October 21, Ten Thousand Villages and Nighttown, 10:30 am

*FHC to Host Presentation on
The Early Days of Integration in Cleveland Heights*

**Democracy in Action:
Cleveland Heights Activists Build an Integrated Community**

Thursday, October 7
7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Cleveland Heights residents Susie Kaeser and Mark Souther will tell the story of housing segregation, and citizen-led activities to change Cleveland Heights from an all-white suburb to a national model of integration. Between 1964 and 1976 citizens, working through a number of new community organizations, challenged community values and real estate practices that made segregation desirable and integration problematic. By taking ownership of their community, they created a lasting legacy, a city with a lively civic culture where diversity is a primary asset.

Dr. Mark Souther is Associate Professor of History at CSU and Susie Kaeser is a Cleveland Heights activist and former Executive Director of Reaching Heights.

This is an open community event, and a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to learn about FHC's early role in working to support "an open and integrated community" and to learn of the involvement of individual members (such as FHC member Doris Allen) in efforts that were critical to the goal of a community rich in the diversity of its citizens.

Come and discover!

Diana Woodbridge

Sundays in October

- 9:00 Child care begins
- 9:30 Adult education (Kerygma small groups)
- Youth education
- 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 (October 12)
- 11:15 Pathways to the Promise Land (gr. 1-5)
- 12:15 Coffee Hour
- Sine Nomine Choir (Gr. 6-12; October 5, 19)
- 12:30 Adult Ed: Second Half of Life series
- 5:00 Youth Fellowship
- Christianity for Seekers (begins October 19)
- 5:40 Labre Project (October 12, 26)

<p>October 5 World Communion; Peacemaking Sunday 11:00 Worship: Communion (Pathways children in worship) 5:00 Book Discussion: <i>Screwtape Letters</i></p>	<p>Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46</p>
<p>October 12 Stewardship Kick-off 10:30 Cherub Choir 11:00 Worship: AWE – Forest City String Band 12:30 Lay Reader orientation and training 1:00 Hilltoppers: Lunch and concert 5:00 Labre Project cookout</p>	<p>Exodus 32: 1-14 Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14</p>
<p>October 19 12:15 Blood pressure check</p>	<p>Exodus 33: 12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22</p>
<p>October 26</p>	<p>Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 24-46</p>

The Revised Common Lectionary readings are listed here.

Announcements! Announcements!

<p>Women – save the date for an overnight women’s retreat: November 7-8 Contact Pastor Clove Beal for more information.</p>	<p>Exploring Membership class: November 1-2</p> <p>New member Brunch After worship November 16</p>
<p>Stewardship Cornucopia Luncheon November 9 After worship</p>	<p>TOWER deadlines: 7 am on October 17 November 14 December 11</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
Dacia Prins (children) dacia@fhcpresb.org, ext 206
Keon Abner (youth) keon.abner@fhcpresb.org, ext 207
Anne Wilson (music), annew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208
Becky Austin (financial): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203
Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email:
office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

Custodians’ cell phone: 216-217-5257

Did you know that your monthly or weekly donation to FHC can be paid
on-line with your other regular payments?
It’s free, easy, and convenient!

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