

# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH  
NOVEMBER, 2017

## From the Pastor's Perspective

### A New Way of Doing Things

*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he [or she] desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife [at a time], sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? -1 Timothy 3:1-16 (ESV)*

Our HCI recommendation says, "As this congregation celebrates its' 50-year anniversary it is time to declare jubilee. They need to clear the clutter, release whatever is holding them in the past, let ministries go fallow, and open themselves to what God is going to do next! ... It is for a year. To keep Sabbath, we stop working, and we rest in the goodness of God. We make the space and time to give ourselves to deepening our walk with God, our relationships with one another and creation, and to restore our soul so that we can take up again the mission God calls us to." "To guide the church in this season, create a single board ... [rooted] in prayer and discernment, which will care for the oversight and organizational functions of the church."

We are ready to launch this new organizational structure! Our HCI coach, Rev. Jim Haun, and our church leadership have discerned the need for two teams to oversee the church in the year ahead. At the Church Conference after worship on Sunday, Nov. 12, we will receive the proposal to replace our current organizational structure with a proposed two-team structure.

One is the Church Maintenance Ministry Team (CMMT), which will effectively replace the current resource ministry teams (SPR, Finance, LLMT, Trustees) and have the function of these teams as well as managing the ongoing, functional needs of the church. This is a team of nine people, with one person designated for Finance (Chris Gruber), one for SPR (Gina Lindholm), and one for Trustees (Duane Dittberner), led by the Resource Lead (Teresa Gruber). An orientation meeting for establishing this team is being held on Mon., Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.

The other is the Action Ministry Team (AMT), which will effectively replace MLT as our top governing team, with authority to set our vision, our

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### Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

November 1	5:30p M&M—Pot Luck/Witnessing to Saints in our Lives
November 2	12pm Sarah Circle
November 4	9am Churchwide "De-clutter Day"
November 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends Guest Preacher Jack Shields
November 6	6:30p CMMT Meeting
November 8	10a Birchwood 5:30p M&M—Pancakes (Courtesy of the Men)/Board Games
November 9	1p United Methodist Women 6:30p AMT Meeting
November 11	Veterans Day 5p Homelessness Awareness Night—Youth 5:45p Adult Fellowship
November 12	Guest Preacher—Dan Hair 11:15 Church Conference
November 15	11:30a Romeos and Juliets 5:30 p M&M—Nancy's Choice/ Giving Thanks Group Game
November 17- November 26	Pastor David on Vacation

## Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

ministry focus, and financial commitments. This will be a team of twelve people, led by the Lay Leader (Marilee Leonard). This team will have the function of the ministry areas (Worship, Nurture, and Outreach). It will also be this team that will guide our church in discerning how we continue to put ministries on pause in order to observe the Jubilee Sabbath in the year ahead. An orientation meeting for establishing this team is being held on Thurs., Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.

The proposed "job descriptions" have been shared with the wider congregation via email and are also available in the office. This replacement church structure will be officially proposed at the Church Conference after worship on Sunday, Nov. 12, along with the 2018 budget and the other annual church business. If adopted, these will replace all of our current leadership and ministry teams, effective immediately. This changed structure will be for one year (the Jubilee year), but if it works well, we are allowed, at next Church Conference (Nov. 2018), to decide to continue operating with this different form of structure. For now, the hope is to have far fewer meetings in the months ahead, and to release people for more time to be with God.

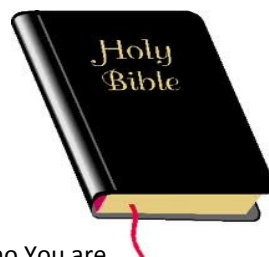
People have been asked to serve on these teams, and the Church Conference will present a list to install officially by vote. Some of the people nominated to serve are not "professing/full" members. The reason for this is that there is a growing culture of people choosing not to join a church (or any other organization, for that matter) as members, while still considering themselves a part of the church and being fully committed to it. The people nominated who are not members do consider Forest Hills their church home and are fully committed to it. We also believe that all the proposed leaders exemplify the Scripture passage above.

We implore the church family to continue to pray regularly for our church, especially as we continue to discern our way forward into a new way of organization. We are striving authentically to live into the HCI plan in a way that pleases God and blesses our church. We can only do that if we all commit to prayer, openness to God's leading, and working together.

50-Year Jubilee: Remember. Renew. Rejoice!

Pastor David

## Worship's Word



"We celebrate for all You've done and who You are.

We lift Your name high above all other names

You are Lord of heaven and earth!"

These are words from our newest song for worship. It's a song that extols the Lord as our reason to rejoice. His victory is our victory! There is a lot to celebrate these days! Here are just a few things to smile about:

### Our church is 50 years old!

A half century of ministry is no small feat! We have built a church from the ground up! We have impacted countless people in our community, encouraged many to answer God's call, and we have faithfully proclaimed God's Word. We dreamed up and put together city wide events, we have worked closely with other churches for the good of God's Kingdom. Week in and week out, our members have selflessly served out of love for God and others. We celebrate!

November 17	5p Unload Community Care Truck
November 18	6a Community Care Set-up 8a Community Care Distribution
November 19	Guest Preacher John Mueller Hymn Sing 6:30p Lifeline
November 20	6:30p Trustees Meeting
November 21	10a Rebecca Circle
November 22	NO M&M TONIGHT 7:00p Thanksgiving Eve Service at Hosanna Church
November 23	Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed
November 24	Church Office Closed
November 26	Guest Preacher Mellissa Deuel
November 29	5:30p M&M—Meal Compliments of Rebecca Circle/Newlywed-Oldywed Game Show

### **We are moving into a time of Sabbath rest!**

God has ordained a rhythm of periodic breaks. We experience this every weekend at church. Now, after 50 years, with hearts full and ears open, we move into a year-long Sabbath. This is a time for us to slow down, to renew our relationship with God and each other. During this time, our faith will be tested. Do we trust God to provide? Do we trust that sitting in his presence in a new way is what he has really called us to do? We have the opportunity to root our faith even more deeply in our knowledge of God and so we celebrate!

### **We are creating space to dream a new dream!**

In the earliest days of the Church, Paul was literally guided by God through dreams and visions. We believe that God wants to do a new thing within our congregation. He wants to grow us in new ways, to lead us into ministry beyond what we could imagine right now. We need the time and space to sit with God long enough, to listen closely enough, to focus attentively on what he has for us next. We celebrate!

### **We have been redeemed!**

This is our go to, the reason we can always rejoice in any given situation. God has saved us! While we were his enemies, he saved us! Let us never grow tired of proclaiming this good news! The greatest thing we can offer to this world is a relationship with Jesus Christ. So together, we celebrate!

For the King,  
-Andrew

## **KID'S CORNER**



### ***Being a Sabbath Family***

Life moves quickly. Just the other day my wife and I were commenting on how fast time flies. Our oldest is nearly a teenager, our youngest has recently started to walk and the time in between has blown by. Our culture is a busy one. We feel pressured to be more involved and make more plans and commit more time.

They say time is money, however you can never buy more time. You might be able to earn a raise or work an extra shift to pad your paycheck, but time is strictly limited. It cannot be saved in the bank. You use it or you lose it. And like money, we never seem to have enough of it. So here is an important question: where and on what do we spend our time?

God calls us to use his precious gift of time wisely. And one of the solutions God offers for our time crunch is called the Sabbath. Here are some things to keep in mind as we think about the Sabbath:

**The Sabbath is for you!** God knows what is good for us! We need to have a time of rest. It is not lazy to take a break from a hard week of work. Imagine if your boss approached you wearing a huge smile and told you to take the day off? After being assured that there was no catch, it would be silly for you not to head home. Even if you enjoy your work, taking a weekly break helps sustain passion for what you do.

**The Sabbath is for your kids!** Busy adults make for busy kids. Sometimes we run ragged trying to ensure that our kids are able to have fun experiences. We don't want them to miss out! But finding the balance between enough and too much is crucial. A Sabbath rest helps strike that balance and allows kids understand the importance of both time itself and obedience to God.

**The Sabbath is relational.** God has given us this gift for the sake of relationships. The idea is to take some of our time and spend it with family and friends. Break out a board game, go on a road trip, have quiet reading time, create something together. Invest quality time into your kids. Sabbath is more than just family time, it includes our relationship with God as well. God needs time to form us as he continues to build us up into what he wants us to be. When we make ourselves available to him through our times of Sabbath, we honor our relationship with him and lay the foundation for God to do amazing things in our lives.

**The Sabbath needs to be prepped.** If we truly want to have a rest-filled day, then there are certain things to be done on the previous day. Clean the house and complete chores so the Sabbath can be dedicated to rest. Run errands and make important phone calls the day before. Complete necessary tasks early so you can set up your Sabbath for success!

**The Sabbath is a command.** This is the bottom line. Sabbath is more than a suggestion or a nice idea. We ought to obey this command. God knows what is good for us. We trust that he has our best interests (another money term) in mind.

Enjoying our God-given Sabbath is not about legalistically following rules. It is about having abundant life! When we use our time wisely, we can experience this life with God and family the way it was intended to be!

**“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”**



***50-Year Jubilee: Remember. Renew. Rejoice!***

***“Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you...for it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you.” -Leviticus 25:10-12***

On December 10, it will be 50 years (to the day!) of our church's 50th anniversary! We have big festivities planned. All of our church family and friends, present and past, are invited to come and mark this special day!

Our schedule that day:

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Banquet

12:00 Noon Anniversary Celebration

1:00 p.m. Dessert and open fellowship

In honor of our 50th Anniversary, we have invited pastors who have served our church, or who have been launched into ministry from our church, to come back and preach a message in one of the Sundays leading up to the anniversary.

Already preached:

June 25 Rev. Peter Milloy (retired status)

July 23 Rev. Dr. Peter Law (served

Oct. 22 Scott Van Daalen (Director of Youth and Media fall 2016 - spring 2017)

Upcoming Guest Preachers:

Sun., Nov. 5: Rev. Dr. Jack Shields (Pastor 2000-2009)

Sun., Nov. 12: Rev. Daniel Hair (Retired pastor 2010-present)

Sun., Nov. 19: Rev. John Mueller Noel (Pastor 1993-2000)

Sun., Nov. 26: Pastor Melissa Deuel (LLP from FHUMC)

Sun., Dec. 3: Rev. Bob Ford (Pastor 1972-1977)

Sun., Dec. 10: Rev. Cindy Gregerson (MAC Director of Ministries)

Also, each Sunday until the anniversary, we will hear videos of people of our church sharing what they see is the purpose and legacy of our church. If you miss one, you can watch it on line at our church web site!

## 50/50

Finally, to celebrate our anniversary "Forest Hills-style" (which means we reach out and show the love of Jesus in tangible ways in our community) we have set the radical goal of collecting 50 each of 50 different dry goods for the Community Helping Hand Food Shelf in town. Thermometers are marking the progress for each item across the front of the sanctuary. So far, we have collected the full 50 of canned ravioli and corn, with many others piling up fast! Our goal is to present 2,500 dry good items to Community Helping Hands the last day of November! Check the web site for an updated list of what's still needed. Let's show the community how we celebrate!

## Events and Info

### Church Conference

Our Annual Church Conference will be on November 12th, directly after worship. We will be presenting and voting on our new Leadership Teams, in line with our Jubilee commitment. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only church members may vote.

### Romeo's and Juliet's

November 15th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; watch for updates on locations.

### Community Care

Saturday November 18th 8 am - 11 am  
Truck unloading Friday, November 17th at 5pm

### Lifeline Sunday October 15th 6:30 pm

Sometimes God can feel distant and it seems like we are alone. If you are weary and disconnected, come and seek God's presence. Lifeline is a simple gathering of prayer and praise. Come and be filled!

### Adult Fellowship

November 11th at 5:45 pm. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the lobby.