

# The Grapevine



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## *Alive With Joy!*

*South Haven United Church of Christ  
415 Northfield Road  
Bedford, Ohio 44146  
Rev. Terry Bartlett*

*February 2012*

*First Class*



## Bartlett's Quotations

Author, pastor and stand up comic, Vince Antonucci has written a book entitled, *Guerrilla Lovers; Changing the World With Revolutionary Compassion*. Through the clergy study/travel group I am in, I will have the opportunity to meet with him in person in February, attend worship at his church and participate in a workshop related to his ministry, which emerges out of many of the ideas he puts forth in the book. Vince is a part of the Emergent Church movement, ministering to people where they live and work that our group has chosen as our focus of study.

In his book, Antonucci talks about the revolutionary nature of Jesus' ministry and says today we've so often reduced Jesus to gentle Jesus, meek and mild, someone cute and cuddly like Elmo on Sesame Street. Or, as pictured often in movies, what Antonucci calls Prozac Jesus, where Jesus walked stoically through life very detached and removed. He had a glassy look in his eye, spoke with a slight British accent and displayed no emotions. Instead, Antonucci says, Jesus was a revolutionary that challenged the very fabric of society, only he did so with love and compassion, not violence.

One of the images he uses of the revolution of love is that it should be viral. We talk about someone posting a video on YouTube and it going viral, as thousands even millions of people will see that video in a matter of days, even hours. He says somewhat humorously:

*"I think Jesus is teaching us that the revolution is meant to be viral. It spreads like a disease, but a disease you WANT to catch... When you hang out with someone who has the flu, you catch the flu. Jesus is saying the revolution should be SNEEZABLE!"*  
(quoted from Guerilla Lovers)

Antonucci, describes how groups and individuals in his church began doing random acts of kindness in the community, mowing lawns for people they didn't know, paying for someone's lunch in the car behind them in the drive through. One group heard about a single mom in the neighborhood who wanted, but couldn't afford, a swing set in her back yard for her three kids. So they knocked on her door and said we'd like to buy and install the swing set for you. The woman was perplexed and asked,

*"Why would you do that? You don't even know me."*  
They said, "Because we like doing nice things for people, because that's what we believe God wants us to do."  
She said, "No one's ever done anything like this for me before!"

A couple of weeks ago, Roger and I talked with the city manager of Bedford about our church volunteers helping with home repairs for people in the community who can't afford it. He was excited and we'll be talking with him further this year about that possibility. The revolution of love is meant to be viral.

I'm looking forward to the time we spend with Vince Antonucci and the ideas and inspiration I hope to bring back to South Haven.

Blessings,  
*Terry*



## February

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

## March

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Amy Rhine	2-01	Mabel Johnson	3-01
Emily & Carol Price	2-01	Jeffrey Rhine	3-02
Art Price	2-03	Roger Swan	3-12
Christopher Pepe	2-06	Bob Stevens	3-15
Domonique Wong	2-15	Laura Dory	3-18
Ethel Schneider	2-16	Ben Ware	3-18
Al Costa	2-23	David Hill	3-20
Jules Rhine	2-24	Jim Rhine	3-24
		Sarah Prentice	3-27
		Scott Johnson	3-31

## Heartfelt Thanks

The Seese and Prentice Families would like to thank our South Haven Family for their thoughts, prayers, cards, emails, phone calls, hugs, etc. for our mother/grandma, Mamie Allen. She was 99 years old at the time of her passing from this world into heaven. She is now whole again and for that, we also give thanks.



## Presentation on India by Rev. Geoffrey Black

Looking ahead, on Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm we'll have a potluck dinner followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Rev Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the UCC and member of South Haven, who will share with us his visit to India last year. Mark your calendar and watch for more information in next month's newsletter.



## ***Soul Food Sunday***

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> we'll have an assortment of soul foods at our regular coffee hour after Church. It's always a treat and I (Terry) am especially looking forward to some sweet potato pie!

## ***February Fundraising News***

The church received \$178.00 in donations toward the Christmas Card Fundraising Project. Sixteen people shared their beautiful Christmas greeting cards, which were displayed on our tree in the lobby. Thanks to everyone who participated with this special project.

The Breakfast with Santa, which was held on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, the photos with Santa, and the Santa Shop raised \$624.00. A big "THANK YOU" to Santa and Mrs. Claus (Joe and Betty Barr) to Lisa Prentice and her kitchen team for the delicious pancake breakfast, Debbie, Lauren, and Natalie Thomas and Cindy Stevens for organizing the Santa Shop, Bonnie Pietro for taking Santa photos, and Diane Bartlett for planning the craft project for the children. All went well and we hope to do it again next December.

*Carol Tevis, Chairperson*

## ***Finance Highlights for December***

Total Income: \$10,598.56  
Total Expenses: \$9,286.36  
Net Income: \$1,312.20

There was no Council meeting in December, so the November financial report was not given. For November and December, our finances have improved, resulting in a first half 2011-2012 net income of \$1,654.34. This is much better than anticipated, and better than the first few months of the year. We have had pledges brought up to date, as well as generous unpledged donations. The Breakfast with Santa, Santa Shop, photos with Santa and Christmas card tree resulted in over \$700 special projects income. Also, due to the so-far mild winter, the utilities expenses have been lower than budgeted. Keep up the good work, everyone!



## ***Movie Night in Observance of Black History Month***

Mark your calendars for an evening of fun and learning Friday February 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll gather at 6:30pm for popcorn and refreshments and then watch the movie "The Help" at 7:00 followed by a period of discussion. The Help and some of the actors have been nominated for several academy awards. We will be watching the movie in the sanctuary so bring a comfortable lawn chair or a pillow and blanket etc. if you don't want to sit on the hard pews. We'll clear some space in the center aisle to be more comfortable. Plan to join us for this fun evening!



## ***Moderator's Moment***

As you read this, Roger and I are enjoying the sun and warm breezes of Florida. Wish you could all be here with us, but there is only so much room in the car! We promise to do our best to bring sunshine and warm breezes back with us when we return in mid-February.

I've been thinking a lot about the talk Jeannette Heater gave during worship on January 1<sup>st</sup>. She spoke of new year's resolutions – not the usual ones that are made and broken generally within the same week but those which can continue throughout the year because we're always working toward them. And even if we completely blow our intentions one day (or for many days) we can always get back on the journey. I'll be brave and share my resolutions with you:

To be more healthy: I will focus on every decision I make about what to eat and trust that thinking about it will encourage me to make good decisions. (Last week I already ordered broccoli instead of french fries to go with my hamburger – at least it's a good start!)

To be more happy: Each night before I go to sleep I will think about the good things that happened during the day.

To be more holy: This is a hard one . . . I will make some time every day to sit quietly and listen for God's word to me.

To be more helpful: I will pay more attention to what is going on around me and actively look for ways I can help. (P.S. Feel free to give me hints!)

You each have my permission to remind me of my resolutions and to elbow me when you see me falling off the wagon; I know I can't do this alone! And that's exactly why I'm a member of South Haven – because all of you are family to me and we all count on one another. Be well, stay warm, and we'll see you in a couple of weeks!

# 2012

# February

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
				7:00 Choir		
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm City Church	NA			7:00 Choir	Lighthouse Ministries	2:00 Hall Rental
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>VALENTINE'S DAY 14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm City Church	NA		7:00 Worship Committee Meeting	7:00 Choir	6:30 Movie Night Potluck	6:00pm City Church
<b>19</b>	<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY 20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY 22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm City Church	7:30pm Council Meeting  NA		6:30 Soup & Salad 7:30 Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 Choir		9:00am Hall Rental
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>			
9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm City Church	NA		6:30 Soup & Salad 7:30 Lenten Study			