



Steeple News

February

2012



Ash Wednesday Service
February 22
7:00 p.m.



THE MUSIC OF REDEMPTION

Giacomo Puccini, who composed the operas *La Boheme* and *Madame Butterfly*, was battling with cancer in 1922 when he began to write *Turandot*, which many now consider his best work. He worked on the score day and night, despite his friends' advice to rest. When his sickness worsened, Puccini said to his students, "If I don't finish *Turandot*, I want you to finish it." He died in 1924, leaving the work unfinished. His students gathered all that was written of *Turandot*, studied it in great detail, and then proceeded to write the remainder of the opera.

The world premier was performed in the La Scala Opera House in Milan in 1926, conducted by Toscanini, Puccini's favorite student. The opera went beautifully until Toscanini came to the end of the part written by Puccini. He stopped the music, put down the baton, turned to the audience, and announced, "Thus far the master wrote, until he died."

There was a long pause; no one moved. Then Toscanini picked up the baton and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "But his disciples finished his work." The opera closed to thunderous applause, and to a permanent place in the annals of great works.

I often like to think of Christ as the great composer of a human symphony. Every Christian is a member of the orchestra and the pastor is like the conductor. The audience is the world waiting to hear the harmonious sounds of the Gospel message. Christ's work was limited to three years on this earth, but left his disciples with the task of carrying on the "symphony" in his absence.

The Gospels reflect the saying of Toscanini who said, "Thus far the master wrote, until he died." The Resurrection of Christ precipitates the next line, "But his disciples finished his work." The rest of the New Testament highlights the work of the disciples, but that work still continues in the life of the New Testament church that is alive and well to this very day. As we study the work of the Master Composer, and diligently work to finish the opera of Christian ministry, we will bring the message of hope to a dying world. And, you know, First Congregational Christians are in the orchestra, tuning up for another completed performance. Can you hear the music? God is still speaking...

Your interim minister, Gary Proietti



Remember in Prayer

Pat Clemens, Linda Finlaw, Linda Bennett, Rick Ward, the family of Ellen Mittendorf, Wilma Weiss, Jeanette (Amy and Martha Wright's friend) Mike Oehling, Jackie Harward, Jim and Jean Nickols, Tom and Jackie Holland, Judy Shover, the Search committee, Vision team III, our safety forces

Thank You...

Reverend Gary and Members of The Big White Church in Berlin Heights,

I thank you for inviting me to be part of your worship service. Barb and I felt very welcome and enjoyed our short time with you. God Bless and Bless God, **Jim Hutchins**

PS The snacks were great too.

To My Church Family,

Thank you all for your cards and prayers, during my surgery. I'm sure I am recovering so well because I have so many people praying for me. You are all wonderful.

Marianne Snyder

Dear Friends of Habitat,

On behalf of Firelands Habitat and the construction team, I would like to thank you for your tool donation and the check raised to purchase tools.

Our Construction Coordinator and Sandy, our Construction Supervisor used the \$103. check to purchase a small, compact, portable air compressor .

We have just completed our 78th and 79th homes. We are starting construction on Ford Street in Norwalk and Pierce Street in Sandusky. This coming summer we are building in Huron on Atwood.

With your support Firelands Habitat can continue to build hope, build homes, and communities.

Sincerely, **Carol Weyer Accounting Manager**

Point of Light missions

wants to thank the cafeteria staff from Edison Schools who donated items for the Angel closet. Instead of a gift exchange among themselves, they bought health and beauty items, personal hygiene products, and cleaning products for people of the community that are less fortunate. They collected over 180 items. Thanks to the staff for your generosity.

—Point of Light Becky Vaughan

February 5, 2012**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)**

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 12, 2012 [Green]**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

February 19, 2012 (White)**Transfiguration Sunday/Last Sunday After the Epiphany**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 22, 2012 [Purple]**Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26, 2012 [Purple]**First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Day With God & Self

Saturday . **March 10, 2012**, an opportunity to retreat from the noise and stress of the everyday. The day includes worship, an introduction to a spiritual discipline and plenty of time for silently experiencing God in the atmosphere of Pilgrim Hills camp.

Check in: 9:30 am - 5 pm; Location: The Prettyman Center at Pilgrim Hills; Cost \$30 for the day, add \$40 if you would like to come the night before.

Registration: www.ocucc.org or call the Ohio Conference 800-282-0740. For more information call Janet Burkhart 330-682-3791

Future Dates: Tuesday, May 1; Saturday, Sept. 8; and Tuesday Nov. 6.

Second Sunday Sharing

February 12

Items needed:

- Household cleaning supplies
- Paper Towels

for Angel Closet distribution.

—Point of Light—Bob Bement

A MERRY — AND SATISFYING SEASON!!!

From Grafton "Mac" Thomas
Former Pastor (1948-1952)

Nearly a year has crawled by since losing our precious Ruth in January. No one can pretend to be doing "just fine" while coping with the new reality. Yet because I am a happy person, living daily with energy from gratitude by having such a pal for over seven decades, my life is full and never boring.

Most of the year was spend writing a short bio of Ruth, who was never willing to write one. Enjoyed being the eldest in the senior golf league. Several of my family and our tribe nearby, drop in and give a happy boost. I prepare most meals, do very light housekeeping. Use a golf cart for town trips.

An honor given to me: asked to give Veterans' Day speech, mostly for students, veterans too, but asked three veterans to help, relating personal experience, an inspiring 25 minutes on PEACE!!! Many said "very inspiring". Had three two hour planning meetings, tried to make it personal with true stories and facts of war's human costs. Each gave brief talks to finish within that time.

"Save the Middle Class For Happier New Year! Va Con Dios, Love Mac

To Ruth:

"Always Springtime"

As one who is enamored
By the promise of greening buds,
Infant leaves and savory blossoms,
You gave me a life-long springtime!
In the freshness of your spirit, your
Confidence through every challenge.

The charm of your piano,
Deep tone from your cello,
And fragrance of your disposition
Are clues to many ways I never felt
In your presence, the fading of
Nature, nor the depths of winter. —Mac Thomas



Abby, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Weaver, Garryn

Marriage of

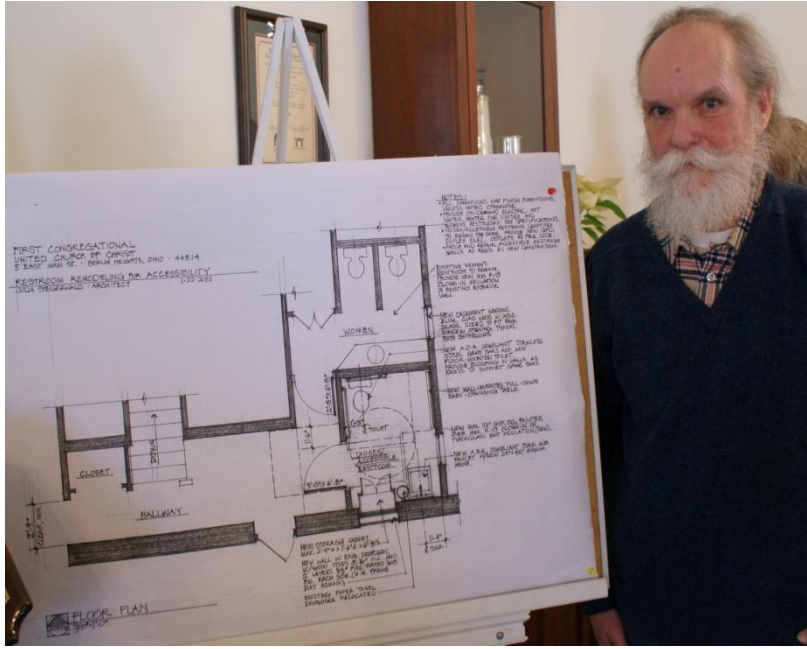
Randy Weaver and Marianne Snyder on Friday, January 20th at Sandusky State Theatre.
Congratulation and God's Blessings to all



Pastor Gary, David Close, Dan Pogacsnik

Mary Lee Close Memorial

dedication of chair lift
January 22, 2012.



Plans for accessible restrooms.



BHCC COMMUNITY CHILI SUPPER
Bowl of CHILI +Corn Bread
Drink & Dessert JUST \$5.00
 Bring the family to Fowler Room-
 At First Congregational UCC Church
 Monday, **JANUARY 30th**
Serving 6:00pm to 7:30pm
All proceeds benefit
The BHCC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
 —Linda Phillips

Family Game Day.....

Sunday, February 12

Do you know how many holes there are in a Wiffle ball? Imagine (game) someone in our church were a children's toy...Which would that person be? These are just some of the silly questions in our new games. You don't have to know the answers, so don't think you need to be a game whiz to come have fun! You've guessed it...Family Game Day! Come on down...you're the next person selected to have a great time at Family Game Day on Sunday, Feb. 12th.

Our church family will enjoy a potluck dinner following church and then we will all play games. Imagine Pastor Gary were a cartoon character. Who would he be?

GI Joe, Mickey Mouse, Prince Charming, Elmer Fudd, He-Man, Bart Simpson or maybe...

Can't wait to hear your answer!



—Bobette Nemire and Trish Bragdon

Women's Fellowship

Thank You so much for the money for the hams for the Christmas baskets. The families were so grateful. We really are thankful for all you do each year.

—Berlin Township Community Christmas Basket Committee

Family Fun Sunday on February 12. Ham and drinks will be provided. We ask for you to bring a dish to share. Bobette and Trisha have games for all ages. Come join in the Fellowship and Fun.

Women's Fellowship Work Day: Tuesday, February 27 in the Fowler room at 9:00am. We will continue to work on Baby Kits for Church World Service. **Items needed: baby sweaters (sizes 0-12 months); diaper pins; cloth diapers (NOT PREFOLDED).** You can find cloth diapers at Walmart or Meyers for around \$12.50 for a package of 10 diapers (there used to be a dozen in a package).

Women's Fellowship Fundraiser**NEW****Spring Bazaar****Saturday, March 24****9:00am—2:00pm****In the Fowler room.**

Women's Fellowship will offer a simple lunch, bake goods and candy sale. This year we are offering the 6 ft. tables free of charge to church members and church board and committees. to join this fundraising project. To participate in the Spring Bazaar call Pauline Malone (419-588-2170) or Barb Bement. (440-839-2264).

Women's Sunday Sunday, February 5

Women in Mission Care!
Blessing Boxes will be distributed.

The Blessing Box is a Spiritual Discipline. It is a tool to help focus on recognizing how God is blessing us every day. We are asked to put a coin in the box for blessing we receive for instance a hug, a unexpected phone call from a friend just to say "Hi", when someone says "good job", etc.

The Blessing Box is first and foremost a tool to help us practice "the Attitude of Gratitude" – living with gratitude for all the blessings that God has given us and sharing the coins for mission.

The boxes will be collected on Sunday, March 18 for our One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Fisher-Titus Medical Center Parish Nursing Healthy Habits February 2012

February is heart month, so this month we would like to talk about *Heartburn*. What is heartburn? Your stomach digests the food you eat by producing acid. Most of the time, this acid stays in your stomach where it belongs. Every now and then, a bit of acid backs up into the tube-know as the esophagus-connecting your throat and stomach, and the backed up acid creates a burning sensation. This is heartburn. Heartburn has nothing to do with your heart. The name comes from the fact that the acid causes a pain in your chest near your breastbone-close to your heart. How can you keep heartburn to a minimum? Instead of eating one large meal, eat several small ones. Choose your foods wisely-try to limit or avoid coffee, hot chocolate, colas and other drinks with caffeine. Avoid foods made with tomatoes. Eat fewer fatty and spicy foods. Skip the peppermints after dinner. Although it might seem like a peppermint will settle your stomach, the opposite is true-it can give heartburn. Stop smoking. Take time to relax. At times heartburn is difficult to differentiate from chest pain, so always call your healthcare provider or go to the emergency room if you are not sure.

(Taken from *Healthful Hints* Vol. 1 by Helene Elaine Vander Werff RN-C, MRE) —**Jill Schafer, R.N.**

“I leave you peace; my peace I give you.

I do not give it to you as the world does.

So don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

—John 14:27.

Erie County General Health District Health Outreach Clinics - 2012

Services that are provided include child, adolescent, and adult vaccines; blood pressure screening; individual health assessments, which include lipid profile, blood glucose, hemoglobin A1C, and health risk assessment.

(Please note: fasting 9-12 hours before testing is required for individual health assessments.)

FREE lead testing for children 0-6 years of age available. We provide referral source services, Community Outreach and Healthy Lifestyle education.

PICTURE ID REQUIRED (ID of Parent/Guardian of Child) IMMUNIZATION RECORDS REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN

A sliding fee scale will be applied as appropriate. Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurances, and cash are accepted. Please contact the Erie County Health Department at (419) 626-5623 ext. 109 for more information.

One of the many locations:

Berlin Heights Township 12101 State Route 61, Berlin Heights, OH 44814

Clinic on Thursday from 8:00am – 10:00am

February 9, March 1 and 22; April 12; May 3 and 24 and June 14th

—**Erie County General Health District**

American Red Cross—Blood Drives:

Wednesday, February 8 at EHOVE Career Center 316 Mason Rd., Milan

Time: 8:30am—1:30pm

Monday, February 13 at Ritter Public Library 5680 Liberty, Vermilion

Time: 1:00pm—6:00pm

American Red Cross continued:

Thursday, February 23 at Huron Public Library 333 Williams St., Huron

Time: 1:00pm—6:00pm

Wednesday, February 29 at Huron High School 710 Cleveland Rd., Huron

Time: 8:00am—1:00pm

—**Volunteer Connection** American Red Cross

Huron County General Health District

Business Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday: 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

Main Office: 180 Milan Avenue, Suite 8, Norwalk OH, 44857

Phone: (419) 668-1652 or 1-888-694-2443 (Toll Free in Huron County)

Give Kids A Smile

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Call for appointment: 419-668-1652 x 252 or
1-888-694-2443 x 252

Friday, February 3, 2012 12 PM to 4 PM

Huron County General Health District

Dental Screening available at no cost for children up to 18 years of age.

Did you know?

The **Smile Express** full service mobile dental clinic is in Norwalk once a month! Serves children & adults low cost payment Medicaid.

Call 1-866-378-6965

—Huron County General Health District.



Annual Cub Scout Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, February 18th

First Congregational Church -Fowler Room

5:00 to 8:00pm

Kids: \$4.00

Adults: \$6.00

Includes spaghetti, meatballs, breadstick, salad, drink and dessert!

Come out and also try to win a raffle! Tickets are 1/\$1.00 or 6/\$5.00.

Prizes include: 4 tickets to Kalahari Waterpark, 4 tickets to Great Wolf Waterpark, 4 tickets to Crusher Game, 4 Ticket to Monster's Game, Salon Gift Baskets, Jewelry, Gift Certificate for Hypnotherapy and

MUCH, MUCH MORE! Tickets can be purchased from Chase Aruskevicius through February 3rd or at the door the day of the event.



Please support our local scouts!

—Lindsay Aruskevicius

December 18, 2011 Children's Christmas Program:

Christmas program on YouTube: [Children's Christmas Program 2011](#). Go to the church website at www.thebigwhitechurch.com and follow the instructions. Amy Pogacsnik uploaded the video. Watch Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4A, Part 4B, Part 4C, and the last Part 5. Enjoy!

—Amy Pogacsnik



Community Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 a.m.

in the Berlin Heights Memorial Park.

Rain date is set for Saturday, April 7th.

Donations may be given to Bobette Nemire or sent to First Congregational UCC. Children in 5th grade and younger need to bring their Easter Baskets to fill with lots of goodies!

On Sunday, March 25th at 6:00p.m., we will be stuffing the eggs...many hands make the job much faster. Also, help is needed the morning of the hunt around 9:00a.m. to set the eggs out.. Please let Bobette know if you can help on either day. Call 419-588-3303. Hippety-Hoppety, Easter's on its way!!!

—Bobette Nemire

WIN CASH RAFFLE

Only 100 tickets to be sold

Each Ticket is \$10

5 Prizes of \$100 each will be given

The drawing will be held when 100 tickets are sold.



All proceeds are used to support the BHCC and the BHCC After School Club.

BHCC board members - Mike Drake, Glen Bernhardt, Veronica Kramb, Linda Moon and Linda Phillips have tickets available.

Thanks very much!

—Linda Phillips

HOLY HUMOR

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't

remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall what the menu was for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be dead today."

No comments were made on the sermon contents anymore.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Feb. 1 Dave Shupe
 Feb. 3 Kirsten Grech
 Feb. 3 Nicholas Shupe
 Feb. 3 Jennifer Lindner
 Feb. 6 Tricia DeMuth
 Feb. 7 Leroy Hayes
 Feb. 9 Adam Link
 Feb. 10 Lauren Taira
 Feb. 11 Serena Frausto
 Feb. 14 John & Pat Carson
 Feb. 17 Jacqueline Gammie
 Feb. 19 David Ratti
 Feb. 21 Trent Wikel
 Feb. 21 Ron Lindner
 Feb. 24 Dale Land
 Feb. 25 Bob Malone Jr.
 Feb. 26 Randy Deehr
 Feb. 26 Richard Malone
 Feb. 26 Monica Klarer
 Feb. 27 Melanne Lindner
 Feb. 28 Ben Gammie

**February Worship
Leaders**

Feb. 5	Ushers	Bill Deehr, Becky Vaughan & Wilma Jean Kernell
	Acolytes	
	Liturgist	Women's Sunday
	Children's Story:	Women's Sunday
	Nursery:	
	Coffee Host:	Congregation
Feb. 12	Ushers	Bill Deehr, Becky Vaughan & Wilma Jean Kernell
	Acolytes	
	Liturgist	John Hartman
	Children's Story	Nancy Wallace
	Nursery	
	Coffee Host	Potluck-Family Fun Day
Feb. 19	Ushers	Bill Deehr, Becky Vaughan & Wilma Jean Kernell
	Acolytes	
	Children's Story	Norma Robson
	Nursery	
	Coffee Host	The Nemire Family
Feb. 26	Ushers	Bill Deehr, Becky Vaughan & Wilma Jean Kernell
	Acolytes	
	Children's Story	Rev. Gary Proietti
	Nursery	
	Coffee Host	



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United Church of Christ
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