

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

*20220 Hopewell Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050*

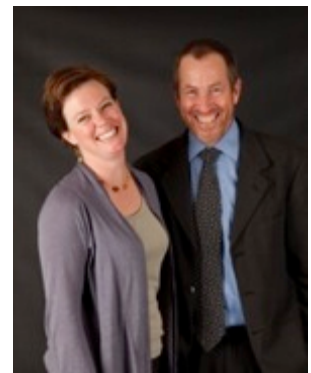
*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

November - December 2014

Pastor's Ponderings – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

FIRE

IN RURAL CENTRAL OHIO, WHERE I LIVE, THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO GET READY FOR WINTER BY HARVESTING FIREWOOD. THE WINTERS HERE ARE A LITTLE UNPREDICTABLE, THEY CAN BE SOMEWHAT MILD OR THEY CAN BE BITTERLY COLD. LAST WINTER WAS BITTERLY COLD, AND SOME ARE PREDICTING THAT THIS WINTER MAY FOLLOW THAT SAME PATTERN. LAST WINTER HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY SEVERAL MILD WINTERS, AND LIKE MANY OTHERS, I FOUND MYSELF RUNNING OUT OF FIREWOOD BEFORE THE END OF THE HEATING SEASON. THEREFORE, I AM BEING A LITTLE MORE PURPOSEFUL IN MY FIREWOOD GATHERING. WHILE HIKING IN THE WOODS WHERE I GATHER A LOT OF MY FIREWOOD, I DISCOVERED A GREAT OAK TREE THAT HAD FALLEN OVER. I HAVE BEEN HARVESTING FIREWOOD FROM THAT TREE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. I AM HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL GIVE ME STEADY, LONG-LASTING HEAT DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.



ONE OF THE JOYS OF GATHERING FIREWOOD, FOR ME, IS BEING OUT IN THE WOODS. IN THE FALL THE LEAVES TAKE ON A FIERY HUE. I LOVE TO SEE HOW THEY CHANGE FROM GREEN TO GOLDEN YELLOWS AND FIERY REDS. WHEN I AM OUT IN THE WOODS THESE LEAVES SOMETIMES COME SWIRLING DOWN AROUND ME ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF THE WIND. WHEN THIS HAPPENS I AM TAKEN BACK TO WHEN I WAS A BOY AND ONE OF MY CHORES WAS TO RAKE THOSE LEAVES. I LOVED TO RAKE THEM INTO PILES. I WOULD JUMP IN THEM AND PLAY DEAD TO SEE IF ANYONE NOTICED, NOBODY EVER DID. BUT BETTER THAN PLAYING DEAD IN THEIR SCRATCHY AND COOL EMBRACE WAS SETTING THEM ON FIRE. THE SMELL OF THOSE DISTANT TIMES IS SUCH A WONDROUS REMEMBRANCE FULL OF MYSTERY. TO SEE THE MATCH STRUCK, THE FLAME BURST FORTH, PUT TO THE DAY'S PAPER AND FROM THE DAILY NEWS TO THE MASS OF LEAVES WAITING FOR THE FLAME THAT WOULD MAKE THEM READY FOR NEXT SPRING'S GROWTH.

JESUS TALKED ABOUT FIRE. HE TALKED ABOUT BRINGING A BAPTISM OF FIRE. HE TALKED ABOUT HOW HE YEARNED TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE. IN LUKE 12:49FF, WE HEAR JESUS SAY, "I CAME TO CAST FIRE UPON THE EARTH; AND WOULD THAT IT WERE ALREADY KINDLED! I HAVE A BAPTISM TO BE BAPTIZED WITH; AND HOW I AM CONSTRAINED UNTIL IT IS ACCOMPLISHED! DO YOU THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO GIVE PEACE ON EARTH?"

NO I TELL YOU BUT RATHER DIVISION...” WHAT IS THIS FIRE THAT JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT? WHAT IS THIS DIVISION AND CONFLICT? I AM REMINDED OF A PASSAGE FROM JEREMIAH 6:14, WHICH READS, “FOR FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM, EVERY ONE IS GREEDY FOR UNJUST GAIN; AND FROM PROPHET TO PRIEST, EVERY ONE DEALS FALSELY. THEY HAVE HEALED MY PEOPLE LIGHTLY, SAYING ‘PEACE, PEACE,’ WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE.” IT IS OFTEN FELT THAT JESUS HAS NO HARD SIDE TO HIM. BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT SCRIPTURES TEACH US. TO BECOME A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST IS TO ENTER INTO CONFLICT WITH THE WORLD, BOTH WITHIN US AND OUTSIDE OF US. THIS CONFLICT RAGES IN AND AROUND US. IN LUKE 19:41FF, WE READ, “AND WHEN HE (JESUS) DREW NEAR AND SAW THE CITY (JERUSALEM) HE WEPT OVER IT, SAYING, ‘WOULD THAT EVEN TODAY YOU KNEW THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE!’” THE PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM IN BOTH THE TIME OF JEREMIAH AND THE TIME OF JESUS WERE CONTENT, THEY SAW PEACE WHEN THERE WAS NO PEACE, AND SO TOO DO WE.

WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER INTO THE SEASON OF ADVENT, WHEN WE PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD. WE BEGIN THE CHRISTIAN YEAR WITH JUDGMENT, WITH THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY. WHY JUDGMENT? WHY NOT GRACE? WHY NOT LOVE? WE KNOW WHY BUT ARE AFRAID TO SAY. EVIDENCE OF IT IS ALL AROUND US IN OUR DAILY PAPERS. WE READ OF DIVORCE, COMPROMISED MORALS, AND LOSS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ALL OF US. WE READ ABOUT EBOLA, HUNGER, WARS, AND ECONOMIC DISPARITY...AN UNJUST WORLD. OUR NEWS CONDEMNS US. GOD, LIKE THAT SMALL BOY WHO LIT A PILE OF DEAD LEAVES AFIRE WITH THE DAILY NEWS, WILL USE THAT SAME NEWS TO BRING HIS REFINING FIRE INTO THE PILES OF DEAD LIVES. AND THOSE WHO MOST MIGHTILY RESIST, WILL, LIKE THAT GREAT OAK, BE TWISTED AND UPROOTED AND THROWN DOWN BY THE WIND OF GOD’S SPIRIT, TO BE CUT UP AND THROWN INTO THE REFINER’S FIRE. THE REASON WE START WITH JUDGMENT IS BECAUSE WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE NEED GOD’S HEALING. THIS HEALING COMES TO US IN THE GENTLE FORM OF A CHILD BORN TO POOR PARENTS, A CHILD BORN DURING THE TIME OF YEAR OF THE LONGEST NIGHT, A CHILD BORN TO BRING HEALING TO AN AILING WORLD.

ADVENT IS COMING. THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING. WE ARE BEING CALLED TO READY OUR HEARTS AND OUR LIVES TO MEET OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. AMEN.

PPR (Pastor- Parish Relations) Committee Report -- Barb Butler

The PPR Committee from Hopewell and South Vernon met with Dr. Brad Call, our new District Superintendent, on September 18, 2014. This being our first meeting with Dr. Call, it was a new experience for all of us but very informative. We welcome Dr. Call as our new DS.

Financial Statement -- Barb Butler, Treasurer As reported at Charge Conference 1/1/2014 – 9/30/2014

Checking Account

Beginning balance 1/1/2014	\$12,695.96
Receipts	\$30,509.33
Disbursements	(\$17,869.86)
Checking Balance 9/30/2014	\$25,335.43
<u>Bldg Fund Saving/certificates</u>	\$22,283.37

(Bills for church painting and drainage work will be paid from the building fund.)

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...on the Web:

www.mvhopewellumc.org

...on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon

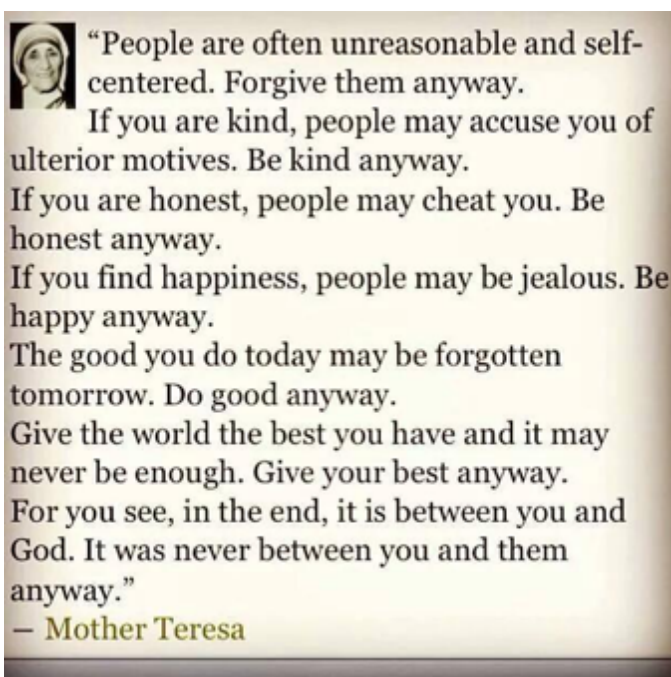
Follow Three Rivers District...

<http://3riversumc.org>

United Methodist Women Report -- Marsha Clayborne, UMW Secretary/Treasurer

The UMW met at the home of Eleanor Doup and Joan Coon on Tuesday October 14, 2014. Eleanor and Joan prepared a nice luncheon for the group. Prayer was given by Joan Coon. The meeting was called to order by Barb Butler. Eight members and one guest were in attendance. A get well card was presented to Ellen Kaiser from the UMW. Ellen had surgery on her knee Friday, October 10. The secretary and treasury report was given followed by dues and missions collected. Barb explained to the group that Interchurch Social Services needs support for the families featured in the "Turn the Tide" columns in our local newspaper. The group voted to donate \$50. On Tuesday, November 11, the UMW/church family dinner at the Mullet's will be at 6:00 p.m. The UMW will treat the pastor and his wife for their meals. Devotions were read by Joan Coon, and the program was given by Joan and Eleanor. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup. The UMW will go together to pay for the pizza. Everyone will bring a dessert and items for the silent auction.

You Say... God Says... ♥		
You Say	God Says	Bible Verses
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
It's impossible	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Romans 8:1
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Romans 8:28
I'm not smart enough	I will give you wisdom.	1 Corinthians 1:30
I'm not able.	I am able.	2 Corinthians 9:8
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	2 Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Philippians 4:13
I can't manage.	I will supply all your needs.	Philippians 4:19
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	2 Timothy 1:7
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Hebrews 13:5



Since You Asked...About Coupons - Marsha Clayborne

The Hopewell United Methodist Church has been very generous in donating expired or unwanted coupons for the military families. Some of you have asked me how they are distributed so I decided to put this in the newsletter for you. A few months ago the Fredericktown Community Library ran an ad in the newspaper about how you can acquire coupons from your local and Columbus papers. They also ended the ad with wanting to collect the coupons for the military families. So I contacted Barb Butler to put this information in the bulletin. When I take these to the library, one of the ladies who works there then distributes them to someone who later picks them up or sends them to the military base. You have reached out to those families in need and I want to thank you for all your help. I will continue to deliver these coupons for the library, so thanks again.

Trustees Report – Cary Purcell, Trustees Chair

The Trustees have been busy with respect to several matters. With the 100-year anniversary of Hopewell United Methodist Church upon us, the Trustees will be focusing on the getting the church building in the best shape possible so that it may shine and endure for the next 100 years.

First, as many of you may have observed, under the watchful eye of Bill Lawhon, the first phase of a multifaceted project has been completed. The church building crawl space exterior and down spouts have been significantly modified to reduce and protect against water penetration and moisture build up. In summary, the old boarded up foundation windows and window wells were removed. The window openings were enclosed with concrete blocks with vents to facilitate airflow and the entire foundation was power-washed, tuck-pointed where needed, and painted. In addition, each of the downspouts was extended and buried in order to move rainwater away from the building foundation, and the metal exterior stair casing leading to the basement has been reworked in order to limit water infiltration. All of these “fixes” were a precursor to preparing the exterior of the church for repainting. It is the view of the Trustees that the ever-present water/moisture in the basement and crawl space greatly contributed to the continuous bubbling and peeling of the exterior paint. Also, consistently high levels of moisture cannot be good for the overall structure of the church building.

Now for Phase 2: A crew has begun removing paint and caulking the exterior of the church building in preparation for coating with high quality paint...hopefully before cold weather sets in for good. Assuming they can dodge the raindrops and we have a few more warm days, we hope to have the painting completed within two weeks.

Early next spring we will schedule and coordinate at least two weekends whereby we hope all able persons will join in the interior and exterior “sprucing up”.

Regarding parking options, we still do not have a solution. It appears that the options related to the land across the street are still in limbo and may remain that way through the end of the year. Other options are being pursued. In the meantime, with the growth of the church and the number of attendees, please make every effort to use our current parking space in the most efficient manner possible. We also ask that, when possible, the parking spots directly in front of the church be used by those attendees needing some assistance or less comfortable with dodging traffic as they cross the road. This will be especially important as we approach the winter months.

Regarding, the previously discussed “capital campaign” to celebrate and prepare for our 100-year anniversary, stay tuned for further details. This effort will require the input and collaboration of the entire congregation. The initial thought is to kick off a capital campaign in November 2014 in anticipation of celebrating our 100-year anniversary in November 2015.

Matthew 5:1ff **1** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.....



2015 Church Council

	Council Chairperson - Don Russell	
Lay Leadership:	Lay Leader - Ellen Kaiser	
Jean Riley		
Bob Joseph		
Don Newland		
Joanne Purcell		
Pastor-Parish Relations:	Worship:	Christian Education:
Barb Butler, chairperson	Irma Newland	Bitsi Gourley
Bev Lahmon	Marsha Clayborne	Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
Linda Joseph	Donna Lybarger	Sara Lawhon
Don Russell	Bob Joseph	Outreach and Evangelism:
Jean Riley	John Wolfe	Irma Newland
Elaine Farie	Stewardship and Finance:	Mary Smith
Ellen Kaiser, ex-officio	Barb Butler, Treasurer	Karolyn Smith
Trustees:	Don Russell	Don Newland
Cary Purcell	Eleanor Doup, Audit	Bill Lawhon
John Wolfe	Greg Yashnyk	Bob Joseph
Amy Yashnyk	Ellen Kaiser	Lay Delegate to Conference:
Mickey Gourley	Linda Joseph	Linda Joseph
Bill Lawhon	One person from Trustees	Bill Lawhon, alternate

Christmas Poem – *the late Mary Cryder* (*aunt of Bob Joseph*)

The Light of Christmas
Comes sometimes when we are not looking,
As it came to....
Noah, pounding away on his ark
Sure in the knowledge of rain
Job, refusing to be shaken
By the misery of his comforters
Jonah, sitting in gourd shade
Watching gourd weaken, worm grow
To us all, may it come again.
And may we know it when we see it.

Please pray for...

...those working for God in missions, locally and globally.
...the Hopewell UMC Nursing Ministry: those who are serving and those who will be served.
...our men and women in uniform, and their families, many of whom are apart at Christmastime.
...Peace on earth; good will to all humankind... "and let it begin with me."
...the community within and around Hopewell UMC.
...families who are worrying about their food and housing security.
...Pastor Lee and Audra as they serve God in ministry.
...each of us as we search for ways to use our talents and resources to bring others to God.

Birthdays

November

2 Sara Lawhon
28 Molly Mae Teter
22 Gary Hughes
29 Bob Joseph

December

3 Jessie Gourley
7 Joan Coon
7 Joe Beran
7 Donna Spinks
17 Marilyn Butcher
21 Brian Zimmerman
21 Emily Hauger

First Time

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five."

Photo Gallery



Elaine Farie, RN, outlines the Nursing Outreach Ministry at HUMC on 9/7/2014.

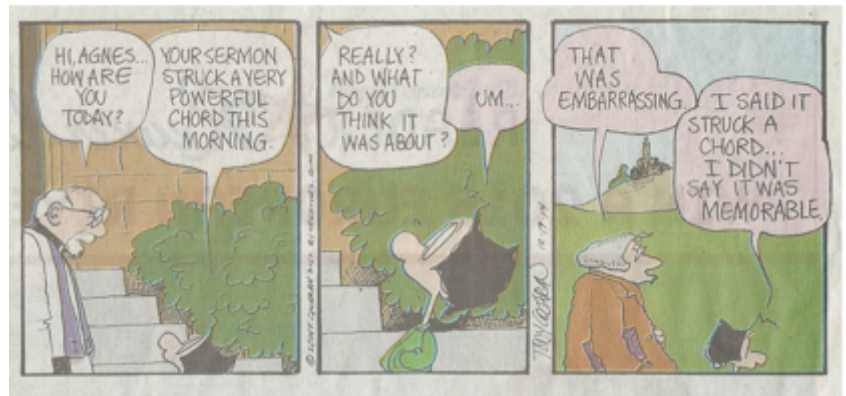


HUMC 'before' re-painting and 'after' foundation changes (window vent addition, painting) and drainage improvements.

2014 CROP Walkers: (l to r) Don Newland, The Wolfe family (Erika, Rylanne, John, Annika), Emily Waters (friend of Annika), and Marsha Clayborne on 10/19/2014.



For the children's chat on 10/26/2014, Pastor Lee unpacks and describes items in his tool bag. "Everything that we have and everything that we are should be used to show to others God's love."



BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD
 It is good thing to give thanks unto the Lord
 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
Giving his love endures forever
THANKS in all things
 "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift
FROM THE FULLNESS OF HIS GRACE WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED ONE BLESSING AFTER ANOTHER





The Nursing Outreach Ministry of
Hopewell United Methodist &
South Vernon United Methodist Churches
Invites you to a free, informal
discussion:

An Evening of Planning for the Future

Sunday, November 16, 2014
142 Columbus Road, Mt. Vernon, OH
3:00pm

∞ A representative of Critchfield, Critchfield, and Johnston
Providing information on Advanced Directives,
including Living Wills and Health Care Power of Attorney

∞ A representative from Snyder Funeral Homes
Providing information on pre-arrangement of funerals and cremation

∞ A representative from Lifeline of Ohio
Providing information on organ donation and
an opportunity to meet an organ recipient

∞ A representative from Schmidt Security Pro
Providing information on emergency medical alerts and wellness services

Question & Answer Time, Handouts, Refreshments

For more information, contact:
Elaine Farie, R.N. at
740-427-2032 or 740-502-9858

Being a Community of Caring

- Rev. Terrie Baker, 3Rivers Mission Outreach Consultant (reprinted from 3Rivers District Newsletter)

Let mutual love continue, do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

Methodism is founded on two solid pillars – acts of piety and acts of mercy.

Wesley in his focus on acts of mercy encouraged his followers to visit prisoners with the same kind of offer for grace and fellowship that one might find in our own personal fellowship with other believers. From the very beginning of Methodism, formation of community was at its core.

Today it means opening our hearts in love, serving others with passion. As the body of Christ it means becoming a Community of Caring. This occurs when we learn to see the world through God's eyes, especially through the eyes of those in need and suffering, not with sympathy but with empathy (putting ourselves in the shoes of those in poverty). This involves forming friendships with people disadvantaged, building self-esteem, and caring for people in ways that encourage self-sufficiency rather than promoting prolonged dependency.

Before I began teaching about Ministry With the Poor, much of our ministry focus was simply on serving a meal, providing clothes, housing or a physical need. Without a doubt these are all necessary and important. Community forms though when we willingly take the next step to form friendships across economic lines. Instead of the number of plates served, articles of clothing distributed, or other statistics, people in poverty become community when they are called by their first names, are recognized as fathers, mothers, children, and friends. In this community one willingly learns to share personal stories and learns to listen – families in poverty and middle-class volunteers alike. It means learning to look a person of difference in the eye with a desire to get to know him or her and say we are equals.

If a ministry focuses simply on providing physical needs, we have the potential to create dependency. While it may feel good to help a person for an hour, a day, a week or a month, these community services have the potential of keeping a person in poverty in poverty. The real change occurs when we form ministries that are relationship-based. This means providing ministries that are holistic. Not disregarding the value of providing meals, household goods, or clothing, a holistic approach allows for us to build people up emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. We help to transform people by encouraging long-term hope and rebuilding broken lives.

If you would like to explore what it means to form this type of ministry, I am available to help. I would love to help you explore the principles of *Bridges Out of Poverty*, share the successes of *Coshocton Circles*, and our work to create *Ministry With the Poor*. Additionally, I am also available to share my experiences while in *Sierra Leone*. If you or your church are interested in getting to know more, please contact me to schedule special programs, teachings, consultations or pulpit supply. I can be reached at 740-294-8198 or terriebaker78@gmail.com.

