

# 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.*

*May - June 2015*

### **Pastor's Ponderings** – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

#### **"One Anothering"**

"One Anothering" is a book by Richard C. Meyer [1990 LuraMedia, San Diego, CA]. It is a book about small groups. In it he explores biblical building blocks for developing healthy small group dynamics. He bases his chapters around certain biblical commands or principles such as "love one another" from the thirteenth chapter of John. Other chapters are entitled, "Fellowship with One Another," "Pray for One Another," "Care for One Another," and "Bear One Another's Burdens" to name some of them. I am mentioning this because I believe they are descriptive of a healthy church. I am using them in a series of sermons that I hope will encourage us to develop healthy church habits.



The first sermon was entitled "Love One Another." Successive sermons will be oriented around a theme of what it means to be a church that cares for one another. I see these sermons as part of our mission statement to "make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ, and minister to the needs of others in his name." In Acts 2:42 we read, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." This is a description of the very beginning of the church. It was not a solo faith experience. It was not a lackadaisical faith. It had a purpose, it was determined, it was enthusiastic, and it was not careless or lazy without purpose or direction.

In John 17:20-26, Jesus prays for all those who will believe the witness of the disciples. He is praying for you and me and all those Christians who came before us and all those who will come after us. Jesus in this prayer is "One Anothering." He is laying down a foundation of being the church of God. Foundational in this church is servanthood. It is the servanthood of believers to one another and to the world. It is this servanthood that is foundational to Christian faith and to being the church. Being a servant means we love one another, it means that we fellowship with one another, it means that we pray for one another, that we care for one another. Being a servant means carrying one another's burdens, seeking to strengthen one another's faith; it means to encourage one another.

To be a Christian servant is not an easy task. It cannot be done in our own strength. It is done through the indwelling of the Spirit of God in us as individuals and through the indwelling of the Spirit of God through us the church. We are called to this purpose by God. It is not optional, for it is of God. If we are to have any part of God, we need to accept that this is our call.

I know that we can do it. Because the strength and wisdom of the task is not ours; it comes from God himself and his indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul in writing to the church at Philippi expresses this same confidence when he writes, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine, for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. [Phil. 1:3-6]" Similarly, Jude the brother of Jesus writes, "Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only one God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. [Jude 24-25]" What is being expressed is complete trust in the grace of God. A grace that works through faith in the redeeming work of God in the believer's heart and life.

Paul and Jude were confronting false teachers entering into the church. These false teachers taught different things. Some said it didn't matter how you lived your life. Others placed such a burden of religious legalism that it worked against the fellowship of the church. In fact we still struggle with that today in our churches. Paul, in writing to the Romans, describes healthy habits of a Christian and of a healthy church body. In Romans 12:9-21, he describes about twenty-five healthy habits: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly, never be conceited. Repay no one evil with evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

I believe that in the scriptures all is given to us for a successful life in Christ together. I believe that the strength comes from God. Our responsibility is to be faithful stewards with the salvation he has given to us. God promises fruitfulness if we abide in him. Will you pray for me as I pray for you that we would truly abide in Jesus Christ for the glory of God? Amen.

## John Wesley's Rule

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.  
*--attributed to John Wesley although  
there is no proof*



### **PPR Committee Report** – Elaine Farie, Chairperson

The PPR Committee of Hopewell UMC met on March 9 and formulated a short questionnaire, which was then distributed to the congregation on March 15. We asked for everyone's input prior to completing the evaluation of our pastor, requested by the District Superintendent (DS). The "valuation" and "action plan" were to be done by every Church in the Three Rivers District Union.

We received positive "feedback" to our questionnaire, and the committee met to complete the evaluation, which was then mailed to the DS on April 13.

We appreciate the response from the congregation as we continue striving to fulfill the mission statement of our church.

### **Admin Council Report** – Don Russell, Chairperson

*1 Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate."*

A few words of thanks to all the congregants who took the time to complete the questionnaire and share their thoughts about their spiritual needs and how they are being addressed by our church, both by our pastor as well as our lay team.

When we, as the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, are discussing the church's progress with the District Superintendent, or are chatting with Pastor Lee about our ministry, the information provided by you is absolutely invaluable—we cannot hope to represent your thoughts and feelings without your input.

We hope that you felt comfortable expressing your views and that you will be even more willing to express what's on your mind and how we can grow as a church and respond to your individual as well as family needs in the future.

Thanks again for efforts, and please keep your comments coming, whether through another questionnaire, or simply a phone call to a Pastor Parish Relations Committee member (Elaine Farie, Barb Butler, Bev Lahmon, Jean Riley, Ellen Kaiser, Linda Joseph or Don Russell)

### **Nursing Outreach Ministry Update** – Elaine Farie, RN

As we "spring" into Spring, hopefully the coughs, sniffles, colds, and flu bugs are long forgotten. Thank God for sunshine (Vitamin D), warm air and no ice to slip and fall on! Let's stay well to enjoy this special time of God's creation.

As of this date, our next information event will be mid-June (date probably June 14), here at Hopewell. Titled "Caregiving Isn't for Cowards", we plan to have a special opportunity for anyone involved with "caregiving". More info coming soon.

In the meantime, see the bulletin board in the Sunday School room, have your blood pressure checked on Sundays, and please call us if we can help you with health care needs.

In Christian Love,

Audra Cubie, Donna Spinks, Donna Lybarger, and Elaine Farie



"Wait a minute – All my worldly goods?"

**FINANCIAL REPORT as of 3/31/2015***- Barb Butler, Treasurer*

Beginning balance 1/1/2015	\$27,231.45
Receipts (Jan - Mar)	\$7,969.58
Disbursement (Jan - Mar)	(\$ 8,089.72)
Checking Account Balance	\$27,111.31
Saving and CDs	\$14,823.64

The Financial committee met on March 23. The meeting was opened with a unison prayer. The committee reviewed the agenda as presented by Barb Butler, Treas. Their recommendations will be presented at Council Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Birthdays****May**

7 Bitsi Gourley  
12 Phyllis Gourley  
19 John Wolfe

**June**

10 Erin Lawhon  
20 Greg Yashnyk  
24 Lee Cubie  
29 Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe

**Kroger Community Rewards to benefit Hopewell UMC - Barb Butler**

If you are presently enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program for HUMC, you must re-enroll in the month of April to continue having Hopewell receive money from Kroger.

The web site is [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) \*click "sign in" Put in your email address and password that you used to enroll your Kroger card. Put in the church #91901. Click **enroll**. If you have any problem call 1-800-KROGERS.

**We need your help. If you would like and are a first time user**, go to the same web site, enroll your Kroger card number and follow as directed—and remember, the Hopewell number is 91901. From December 2013 though March 2015, Hopewell has received \$586.16 from Kroger Community Rewards!

**Hard Work Pays Off - Barb Butler**

On Monday April 13, the Hopewell Family had their Annual Fund Raiser by serving approximately 300 people at the CES Credit Union Annual Meeting at the Memorial Building in Mount Vernon.

Members of the church provided a total of 60 pies and prepared 31 lbs of hamburger for sloppy joes and about 12 lbs of hotdogs. It was a day of hard work, fun and great fellowship. [Ed. note: See a photo of some team members on page 6.]

**Follow Hopewell UMC...**

...on the Web:

[www.mvhopewellumc.org](http://www.mvhopewellumc.org)

...on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon](http://www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon)

**Follow Three Rivers District...**

<http://3riversumc.org>



**UMW Sunday** – Barb Butler

The women and youth of Hopewell will be conducting the morning worship service on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** in observance of UMW Sunday. The theme is "I Will Sing to the Lord", Women of Faith Through Music. Please come and enjoy a morning of singing.

**Vision Team Meeting**

The HUMC Vision Team will meet for dinner and discussion **on Wed, May 13 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Parkside Restaurant**, 110 Mount Vernon Avenue. Bob Joseph will share pre-meeting materials by May 6.



"We no longer call it, 'thinking outside the box.'  
It's now 'brainstorming without borders.'"

**Scioto Ridge Boys Concert**

The Scioto Ridge Boys gospel quartet will present a concert at Hopewell United Methodist Church on **Sunday, May 3 at 2 PM**. (The group will also be singing at the 11 AM worship service at South Vernon UMC.) The hour-long program—open to the public—will feature the joyful singing of many old favorite and contemporary Southern Gospel songs. Since the 'Boys' began singing in 1992, this group has been well received in over 450 venues, including Lakeside and Hilliard summer concert series, Ohio and Indiana state fairs, and many churches, retirement centers and community events.

**UMW Report** - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at the home of Barb Butler on Tuesday, March 10, for an afternoon luncheon and meeting. Six members and two guests were present. The luncheon prayer was given by Barb Butler. Guests Bob and Linda Joseph collected information about the history of the UMW and Hopewell Church. Jean Riley, Eleanor Doup, Beverly Lahmon, and Barb Butler gave substantial information and memories of the UMW and the Hopewell Church history. Bob and Linda asked about different times in the church history. The UMW thanked Bob and Linda for attending our meeting and the opportunity to share memories from long ago.

Dues and missions were collected, and Marsha gave the secretary and treasury report. Marsha Clayborne read a thank you card to the UMW from Interchurch. Barb announced that the annual Three Rivers District UMW Banquet will be held April 11th at the Gay Street United Methodist Church.

Barb told the group that UMW Sunday will have the theme "I Will Sing for the Lord". The UMW will dedicate these hymns to our own, Irma Newland. Devotions were given by Barb, and the group played games called "Match the Biblical Couples" and "Name the Green Thing". Jean Riley and Joan Coon won the prizes. The next meeting will be at Barb Butler's to organize UMW Sunday. Everyone is to bring a salad or a dessert.

Closing prayer, written by William Chapman, was given by Barb Butler. The meeting was adjourned.



Pastor Lee distributed sword palms to the youth— then briefly engaged in a mock sword fight with each one. (Children’s moment, Palm Sunday, 3/29)



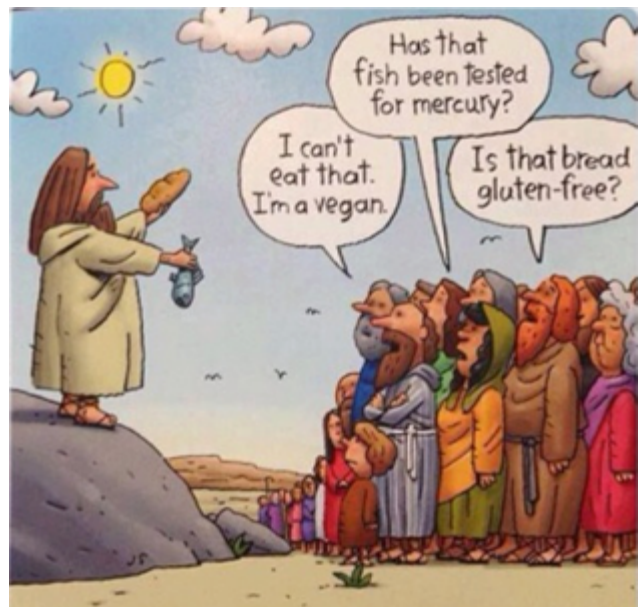
On Maundy Thursday, 19 people gathered for a ‘love feast’ (above). Each item was a reminder of the simple foods the early Christians might have shared (below).



God wants to lift the weight that burdens us. (Children’s moment, 4/12)



At the CES Credit Union dinner on 4/13, more than 20 HUMC workers served over 300 people in less than 2 hours. Several relaxed after kitchen cleanup (above).



Feeding the Masses—2015