

# 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.*

*December 2016 - January 2017*

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

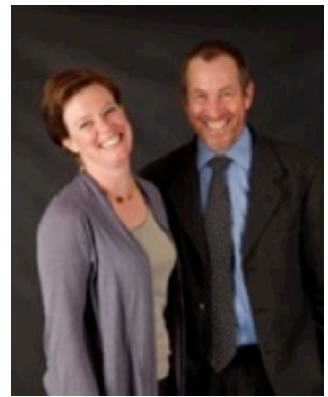
#### **Christmas**

Christmas! What a wonderful time of year! Many of us have very fond memories of Christmas. We celebrate Christmas in many different and wonderful ways. It is especially delightful when the snow is freshly fallen, sparkling like diamonds cast upon the earth in the sunlight. Colored lights, that hypnotize, as they twinkle in the starlight. Trees, decorated with ornaments, pop up overnight, bringing wonderment to young and old alike. Stores are richly decorated in myriad textures, patterns and colors.

Christmas is drenched with sights, sounds and smells that bring joy into our lives. Bells ringing, carolers caroling, sounds of beauty, sounds of life. And in the home, kitchens full of spices smelling comforting yet faintly mysterious. Richness of butter and cream, delightfully expressed, with the help of vanilla, sugar and flour, into cookies, shaped into stars, canes, Santas and elves. All of them frosted and some sprinkled with candied bits carrying the colors of the rainbow.

What a delight to the senses!

Have you ever wondered why Christmas follows Advent? It seems odd to have such a joyful time preceded by scriptures that warn us of the judgment of God. Well it seems odd, if Christmas is just a holiday to make us feel happy. Christmas, however, was meant by God to bring more than delight to our senses. It was meant to bring delight to our souls. The sending of Jesus as a babe, so long ago, was God announcing that he was beginning the close of this age, and the beginning of the age to come. Christmas, for the people of Christ, is the announcement of our hope, that this world will finally be put to right.



God's healing of this world begins with the birth of a little boy, tucked away with parents, in a stall with the animals God created. All of creation was in that stall. There were day and night, plants and animals, water and dry earth, and most importantly a man and a woman. Into that stall, God poured all of his fullness into the flesh and blood, of a baby boy, made a little less than the angels. No wonder the angels sang. No wonder the shepherds wondered. No wonder the kings of the nations came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. No wonder great and small fell on their knees and worshipped him. No wonder that God protected him from Herod. All for our wonderment at the goodness of God.

This Christmas let us praise God for his mighty work in bringing a baby boy, born of a virgin, into the stall of a little stable. Have a merry Christmas!

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

The PPR committees of Hopewell and South Vernon United Methodist Churches met at Gay Street Methodist Church for our Charge Conference on Oct. 17. Our District Superintendent, Dr. Bradley Call, shared a very meaningful and inspirational message, focusing on the Unification of The Body of Christ -The Church.

The Omnibus Charge/Church Conference Report for 2016--of each Church represented--was voted upon and accepted.

Our Hopewell Committee will be meeting with that of South Vernon in early winter--to continue and maintain positive communication as "sister Churches". We are truly Blessed to have Lee Cubie as our shared Pastor.

### **Did You Know...About John Wesley** --by the editors of Christian History Institute

...John Wesley (1703-1791) was *one of eighteen children*, eight of whom died in infancy.

...Before John and Charles Wesley went to Georgia as missionaries in 1735, they consulted their mother, who said, "If I had twenty sons, I should rejoice if they were all so employed, *though I should never see them more.*"

...He *never intended* to form a church separate from the Anglican Church. The separation occurred as a result of his personally ordaining preachers destined for America after the Revolutionary War. "Ordination is separation."

...John Wesley rode far enough on horseback to circle the earth 10 times. He rode 250,000 miles! He was convinced that it was important for him personally to spread the gospel through relationships and continue to grow closer to God in those relationships.

...At John Wesley's death in 1791 his followers numbered 79,000 in England and 40,000 in America, but by 1957 there were 40 million Methodists worldwide! [ed. note: In 2014 there were an estimated 12 million Methodists in the world...about 7 million in the U.S.]



John Wesley preaches in the meeting house of Mathew Bagshaw in Nottingham, England, in 1747.

### UMW Sunday - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

UMW Sunday was held on November 13. The theme was "Growing in Grace and Service." Special music was provided by Barb Spitzer and Lydia Luna from South Vernon UMC. The Gourley girls lit the acolyte candles. Barb Butler began the service with words of welcome and announcements. Bev Lahmon gave the "Call to Worship" and opening prayer. Ellen Kaiser conducted the "Youth Yak" with a story about "Speckle," and the Prayer of Dedication. The Gourley girls collected the offering. Marsha Clayborne read the scripture readings from Psalms, 2 Corinthians, and Romans. The message was called "If God Should Speak". The UMW started the skit with Barb Butler as the voice of God. The other readers were Jean Riley, Bev Lahmon, Eleanor Doup, Joan Coon, Marsha Clayborne, and Ellen Kaiser. Jean Riley gave the Pastoral Prayer. Joan Coon gave the Benediction. The hymns were "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing", "God of Grace", and "Amazing Grace". Donuts and cider were furnished by the UMW.

The next UMW meeting will be Tuesday, December 6 at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup.



### Heart of Ohio Tour



On October 1 and 2, Hopewell UMC hosted several hundred visitors from Knox and surrounding counties as one of eight stops on the 2016 Heart of Ohio Tour. Guests were treated to Hopewell hospitality, including cold water and locally grown

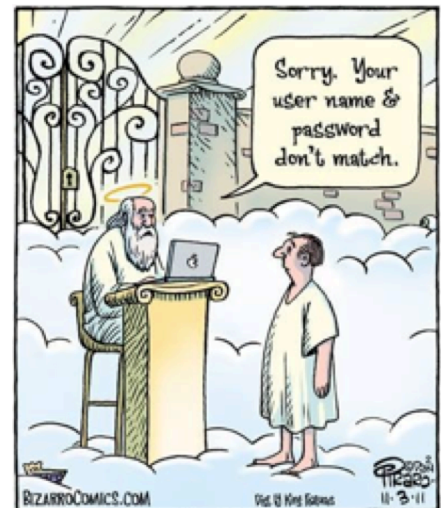
apples. And they were introduced to a history of the congregation and building and of health care in Knox County. Many said they had driven by the church but had never seen inside; many also commented on the beauty of the church. Rachel Blevins, one of the visitors from Knox county, took pictures of the church—inside and out, from many angles. A selection of the photos Rachel shared is found elsewhere in this newsletter.



### Nursing Outreach Ministry - Elaine Farie

Looking back on the Heart of Ohio Tour, which Hopewell was a part of, many people who attended, seemed to appreciate the "100-year History of Health in Knox County". Our Thanks were extended to Jim Gibson, Curator of Knox County Historical Society, the Knox County Health Dept., our local Knox County Public Library, and others involved in the presentation.

Blood pressure checks are still available after services on Sunday mornings. Please check the bulletin board in the Sunday School room for upcoming events at our local hospital (many support groups and wellness clinics are held---free of charge). Also, please give blood at the Red Cross visits offered frequently. After all-----HE gave HIS BLOOD FOR US. In the meantime--stay well--no sickness allowed. God Bless you all.



**Finance Report** as of November 25, 2016

- Barb Butler, Treasurer

General Fund	\$51,131.24
Building Maintenance Fund	\$17,477.26
Centennial Capital Campaign Fund	\$34,097.99

The Finance Committee held meetings on October 3 and November 3 to work on and discuss financial responsibilities for the church.

**Special December Events....****Tuesdays in December - Advent Bible Study**

Pastor Lee will lead a study focusing on the "one another" passages of the Bible, meeting at the church. Time to be determined.

**Sunday, Dec 4 - Trim-a-Tree program**

Join in Hopewell church's traditional Trim-a-Tree program at 5 PM. Children of all ages will decorate the sanctuary tree. There will a carol sing, refreshments (bring a favorite finger food or dessert to share), and a silent auction (bring a white elephant

**Saturday, Dec 24- Christmas Eve**

What would Christmas Eve be without candle lighting, much-loved hymns and the story of the first Christmas, and Holy Communion? The Hopewell Christmas Eve service with all these elements will take place at 5 PM on December 24.

**HUMC Cookbooks for Christmas**

The centennial cookbook makes a nice Christmas present—or stocking stuffer for someone with a very large, stretchy stocking. The collection of recipes has been well received and will provide great joy throughout the years. While they last, copies are available at \$15 each, remitted to Barb Butler.

**Birthdays**

## December

- 3 Jessie Gourley
- 7 Joan Coon
- 7 Joe Beran
- 7 Donna Spinks

## January

- 4 DJ Johnson
- 5 Maryellen Aranda

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...on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon)**Follow 3Rivers District...**<http://3riversumc.org>



CROP Walkers from the HUMC family were: John, Erika, and Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe, Amelia Kanuckel; Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe; Danielle Kanuckel; Marsha Claborne; and Don Newland. Thanks to all who walked to end world hunger!



Rev. Dr. Brad Call, Three Rivers District Superintendent, preached in the HUMC pulpit on Oct 16, allowing Pastor Lee Cubie to participate in the all-church calendar planning meeting and potluck.



On Laity Sunday (Oct 23) Rev. Betsy Schenk (left), a recovering addict from Niles, and Officer Rex Young of Mt. Vernon and Rev. Don Newland (right) shared their perspectives of the growing problem of addiction as it affects our community. Mary Samuel, Counselor, the Freedom Center also participated.





**UMW Church Dinner – Marsha Clayborne**

The annual church dinner organized by the UMW was held at the home of the Mullet family on November 8. Pastor Lee Cubie blessed the food. Thirty people dined on a family-style dinner of roast beef, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, gravy, salad, homemade breads, and assorted pies. There was a lot of conversation and laughter during the evening. Thanks to Bev Lahmon for arranging this event that so many enjoy each year.

**Hopewell UMC**—as seen through the eyes of Rachel Blevins, a visitor during the Heart of Ohio tour on Oct 1-2.

