

# 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.*

*February - March 2017*

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

#### **Epiphany and Lent**

I grew up in a household that was exceptionally faithful to the gospel of Jesus the Christ. My father's father was a pastor. My father and one of his brothers went to seminary. One of his sisters went on to become a pastor as well. In my generation, on my father's side are four pastors. My mother also went to seminary, which is where my parents met. To say the least, I grew up in a family where the gospel story was well represented.

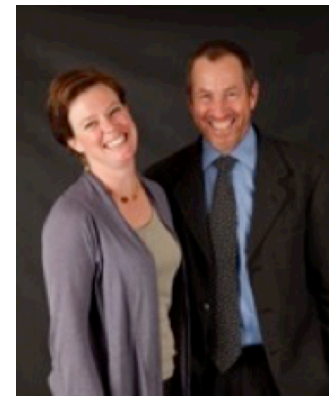
I speak of having the gospel story being represented. What was not represented was a church oriented around a church calendar. We celebrated Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter like most churches, but unlike most mainline Protestant churches, we did not celebrate Advent, Epiphany, Lent or Pentecost. You could say that all Sundays were the same. My parents' families came out of a tradition that did not see the need to have a list of Holy Days or special seasons. They took seriously the admonition of scripture as found in Amos 5:21-24, which read,

"I hate, I despise your feasts,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
Even though you offer me your  
burnt offerings and cereal offerings,  
and the peace offerings of your fatted beasts  
I will not look upon.  
Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
To the melody of your harps I will not listen.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

They were concerned that the trappings of faith would become a substitute for actual incarnational faith.

A preferred Psalm would be Psalm 51, with what was probably the original ending. It reads,

O Lord, open thou my lips,  
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.  
For thou hast no delight in sacrifice;



were I to give a burnt offering,  
 thou wouldst not be pleased.  
 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
 a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
 thou wilt not despise.

What was emphasized in the faith of my parents was a heartfelt personal relationship with God. It was pietistic. It was pietistic in that what was emphasized was a devout relationship with God. Daily reading and study of the scriptures was encouraged. Faithfulness to God in the life of the congregation was expected. This was the life of my parents. They only missed church when they were in the hospital or so ill that they could not get out of bed. I knew them to walk the mile from their home in the snow when they could not drive. Their giving began at a ten percent tithe, and grew from there, even if it meant we went without. They served without counting the cost, spending many an evening in meetings. When my father retired from teaching, he saw it as an opportunity to lead an adult bible study every Sunday morning. Class attendance was generally thirty or so. To paraphrase J.F.K., their motto was, "Ask not what your pastor and church can do for you, but what you can do for your pastor and church."

I thank God that he has granted me to serve in two churches where this spirit is alive and well. In some of us it is well established, in others it is growing.

All of this leads me to the title of this little note, "Epiphany and Lent." I have come to appreciate the richness of the Christian calendar. It is a calendar that all Christians can follow no matter what nation they find themselves in. It is oriented around the mighty works of God instead of the mighty works of a nation. With that said, it is only valuable if we have a living and growing relationship with God. As James writes, "faith without works is dead."

The seasons of Epiphany and Lent celebrate two aspects of God's mighty works. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of a loving God to the nations, who find themselves revealed as sinful. Lent celebrates repentance, the broken and contrite heart. When we put these two seasons together in our own personal salvation history, we are celebrating that moment in our lives when we became aware of a loving, holy God and our sinfulness--our personal epiphany which reveals God and our sinful selves. Lent then celebrates that moment when we cry out for forgiveness and throw ourselves upon the mercy of God. This is the richness of the Christian calendar. Psalm 85 richly represents this for me. The psalmist sings,

"Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
 for he will speak peace to his people,  
 to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
 Surely his salvation is at hand for those that fear him,  
 that glory may dwell in our land.  
 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
 righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
 and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
 Yea, the LORD will give what is good,  
 and our land will yield its increase.  
 Righteousness will go before him,  
 and make his footsteps a way."

May this Epiphany and Lenten season not find you like the people that Amos wrote to. But may "Steadfast love and faithfulness...meet;" and, "righteousness and peace...kiss each other." Amen.

### This "Going Somewhere" Society – by Don Newland

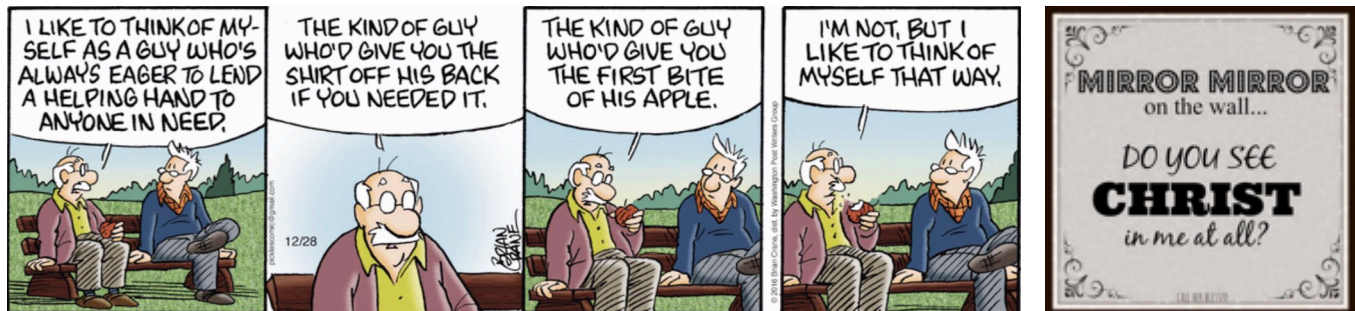
We are truly a "going somewhere" people. We have legs and we have various modes of transportation. So we say, "I am going to the grocery, to the specialist, to the activity of my child, to the movie, the Mall, the Car Show." Now there is nothing "bad" here, and it can be said that being active and on the move is important to our wellbeing.

There is, however, another reference to "place" where we may often or sometimes go. We say, "I may go to Church (worship) or to Bible Study." Now I would submit, and you may disagree, that "going to Church" is a whole different reference than some of the other "goings" in our busy lives. It seems to me that there is a depth factor of belief involved in my decision that "yes, I am going to worship the Lord this Sunday." It might even be thought or said that one would think, "I know that I should 'be going' to Church, but, after all, who cares?" Well, here is the news flash: When I do not see you in sacred worship, then there is a sense in which I am, we are, diminished. We are diminished not in "head count" but rather, perhaps, in "heart count."

All of this is summed up beautifully in the little worship song:

"I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together."

God Bless!



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

...Though not a doctor of medicine, John Wesley invented many cures for diseases he had, wrote a book on medicinal cures for the masses, and started clinics for the poor. If this were not enough to show him interested in medicine, he also *experimented on the effects of electric shock* to treat nervous disorders and treated thousands this way—none had adverse side effects from the treatments!

...John Wesley *preached in the open air* to audiences estimated in the tens of thousands after Anglican pulpits were closed to him. Sometimes he began preaching at daybreak or even before daybreak, and regularly he preached three times a day.

...Churches, said Wesley, should be built "in the octagonal form" (with eight sides) and the interior should have a *rail in the middle* "to divide the men from the women." There were to be no pews and no backs to the seats!

...Benjamin Franklin printed Wesley's sermon "On Free Grace" and several sermons by Wesley's friend and fellow preacher George Whitefield. In turn, *Wesley read everything Franklin wrote on the physics of electricity*, then wrote his own treatise on electricity. The two men never met!

... *John's brother, Charles Wesley, wrote over 6500 hymns!* Many of those hymns are still in hymnals the world over today, including "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," and "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." (Ed. note: *The life of Charles Wesley, also a preacher, will be highlighted in future newsletters.*)

### **UMW Report** - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup on Tuesday, December 6. A festive luncheon was served to the seven members and one guest. Joan Coon recited the blessing. Barb Butler conducted the meeting. Marsha Clayborne gave the secretary and treasury report, along with the dues and missions collected. Eleanor Doup and Joan Coon read the devotions from Psalm 73. Games were played, and Vicki Yusko and Bev Lahmon won prizes. The group voted to give a check to the Tripp Tough Foundation. Tripp Heffelfinger is a two-year-old boy who has been hospitalized with cancer (Marsha Clayborne made the motion; motion passed). The members discussed their host month for 2017. The meeting was adjourned by Jean Riley. The group then had their silent auction. They prepared bags of candy for the children to be handed out at the Christmas Eve service. There will be no January and February meetings due to weather.



### **United Methodists in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress**

Forty members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress – just beginning its work in Washington – are United Methodists. That’s a decline by three from the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**Senate:** In the Senate, United Methodists remain at 10. But the number of United Methodists in the Senate could fall by one soon. Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions from Alabama, a member of Ashland Place United Methodist Church in Mobile, is President-elect Donald Trump’s pick to be U.S. Attorney General. Sessions’ appointment is subject to Senate approval, and the Senate Judiciary Committee has been holding hearings on the matter.

**House:** The number of United Methodists in the House has decreased from 33 to 30. Three newly elected United Methodists will serve in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress: Sen. John Kennedy, R-La.; Rep. Charlie Crist, D-Fla.; and Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo. Crist is a former governor of Florida, and Cheney is the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Republicans outnumber Democrats 27 to 13 among United Methodists in Congress. The small partisan decline from 72 percent Republican in the previous Congress to 67 percent in the new Congress owes mostly to the retirement of five House Republicans.

United Methodists remain in third place in congressional religious affiliations, behind Catholics and Baptists – the same ordering since 1994.

Here, drawn from religious affiliations as reported by Pew Research Center and CQ/Roll Call, is the full breakdown of United Methodists in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress:

**Ten senators:** Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.; Tom Cotton, R-Ark.; Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.; David Perdue, R-Ga.; Pat Roberts, R-Kan.; John Kennedy, R-La.; Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.; Richard Burr, R-N.C.; *Rob Portman, R-Ohio.*

**Thirty House members:** Doris Matsui, D-Calif.; Mark Takano, D-Calif.; Mike Coffman, R-Colo.; Bill Posey, R-Fla.; Charlie Crist, D-Fla.; Rick Allen, R-Ga.; Earl L. Carter, R-Ga.; Rob Woodall, R-Ga.; David Loebsack, D-Iowa; Lynn Jenkins, R-Kan.; Kevin Yoder, R-Kan.; Thomas Massie, R-Ky.; Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md.; Bennie Thompson, D-Miss.; Emanuel Cleaver II, D-Mo.; *Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio;* *Steve Stivers, R-Ohio;* Tom Cole, R-Okla.; Phil Roe, R-Tenn.; Joe Barton, R-Texas; John Culberson, R-Texas; Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas; Kay Granger, R-Texas; Gene Green, D-Texas; Sam Johnson, R-Texas; Pete Olson, R-Texas; Pete Sessions, R-Texas; Derek Kilmer, D-Wash.; Rick Larsen, D-Wash.; and Liz Cheney, R-Wyo.

–Source: [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)



## Special February-March Events....

### Tuesdays – Bible Study

Pastor Lee will lead a study. Time and topic to be determined.

### Tuesday, Feb 28 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Options to observe the beginning of Lent include Bob Evan's restaurant or Batemantown UMC pancake supper. Place and time to be determined.

### Follow Hopewell UMC

...on the Web: [www.mvhopewellumc.org](http://www.mvhopewellumc.org)

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

## Birthdays

### February

- 1 Don Newland
- 9 Shad Bevington
- 11 Brad Coon
- 13 Howard Workman
- 18 Leah Gourley
- 20 Donna Lybarger

### March

- 13 Karolyn Smith
- 14 Joanne Purcell
- 14 Mike Cedoz
- 21 Audra Cubie

## Hopewell Bell History...an Update

The Hopewell church bell was quite likely manufactured by the Cincinnati Bell Foundry Company, rather than the nearby Foote Foundry in Fredericktown. In an inquiry to the American Bell Association (yes, there seems to be a group for almost everything on earth), a discussion forum member said the bell appeared to be a Blymyer bell from the Cincinnati foundry. A Cincinnati Bell Foundry brochure (1910), found in the Ohio History Connection

archives, included an excellent match for 'our bell.' The photo (left) indicates the 24" bell price was \$40 (\$950 in today's dollars). The bell came with a 5-year, full replacement warranty; if the bell cracked after the warranty expired, the bell would be replaced at half-cost. However, the foundry went out of business about 1925.

Note Cary Purcell's impressive construction of the bell frame (below), done without benefit of the instructions in the pamphlet.

Bells  
For Small Churches, Chapels, School Houses,  
Etc.



FIG. 2

SIZE DIAMETER	WEIGHT OF BELL ONLY	WEIGHT BELL AND MOUNTINGS	SIZE OF WOOD FRAME OUTSIDE	DIAMETER OF WHEEL	LIST PRICE
22 inches	125 lbs.	225 lbs.	26 inches x 32 inches	21 inches	\$30 00
24 "	155 "	300 "	28 " x 34 "	24 "	40 00
26 "	200 "	350 "	30 " x 40 "	27 "	50 00
28 "	250 "	400 "	32 " x 42 "	27 "	60 00
30 "	300 "	500 "	34 " x 44 "	30 "	75 00



**Financial Statement -- Hopewell United Methodist Church -- Barb Butler, Treasurer**

Dec 31, 2016

## GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance Jan 1, 2016 YTD YTD \$ 5,049.30

## Income

Envelopes \$ 32,998.90

Plate \$ 2,660.50

Coin Jar \$ 676.35

Fund Raisers (CES/Krogers) \$ 2,574.51

Misc Income (e.g., cookbooks/t-shirts) \$ 1,128.20

Total Receipts \$ 40,038.46

## Expenses

Operating Expense \$ 28,359.93 \$38,359.93

Transfer to Savings \$ 10,000.00

Checking Balance Dec 31, 2016 \$ 6,727.83

General Fund Saving \$ 20,000.00

Certificate of Deposit \$ 25,229.12

**General Fund Balance** \$ 51,956.95

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND/saving \$ 8,407.15

Certificate 9147 \$ 5,791.02

Certificate 8619 \$ 5,399.75

**Building Maintenance Fund Balance** \$ 19,597.92**Centennial Capital Campaign Fund Dec 31, 2016** \$ 35,381.72

"I know he said two of each, but I'm telling you bring back three of each and I'll fire up the grill."

**A Little Bit of Joy...**

Terri asked her Sunday school class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see...and that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius—the Pilot."

--submitted by Julie Britton



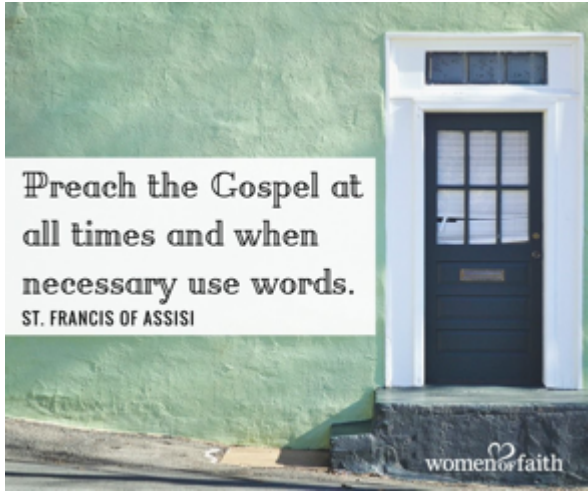


Periodic fine-print (tongue-in-cheek) disclaimer: The cartoons in this newsletter represent the sense of humor of the editors and do not necessarily represent that of HUMC Management or any Higher Authority. Readers are cautioned to apply their own standards. Laughing, smiling, or groaning is an individual decision.



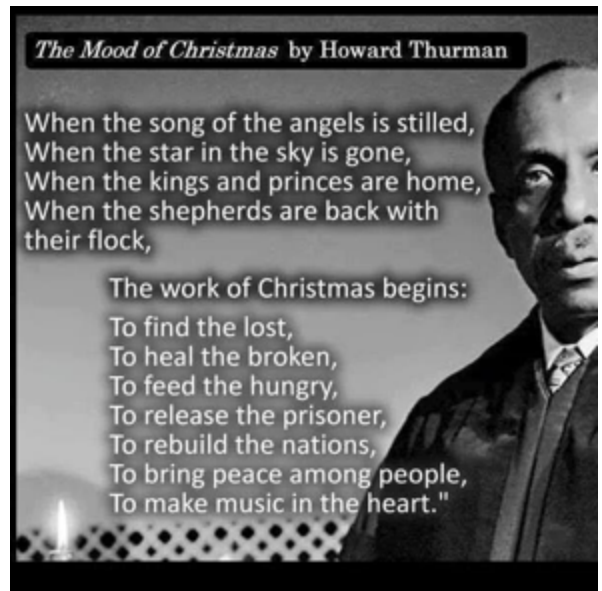
Bill Lawhon conducted the Youth Yak and presented the sermon message on Jan 8.

Hopewell UMC—Below are two more photos by Rachel Blevins, a visitor during the Heart of Ohio tour on Oct 1-2.



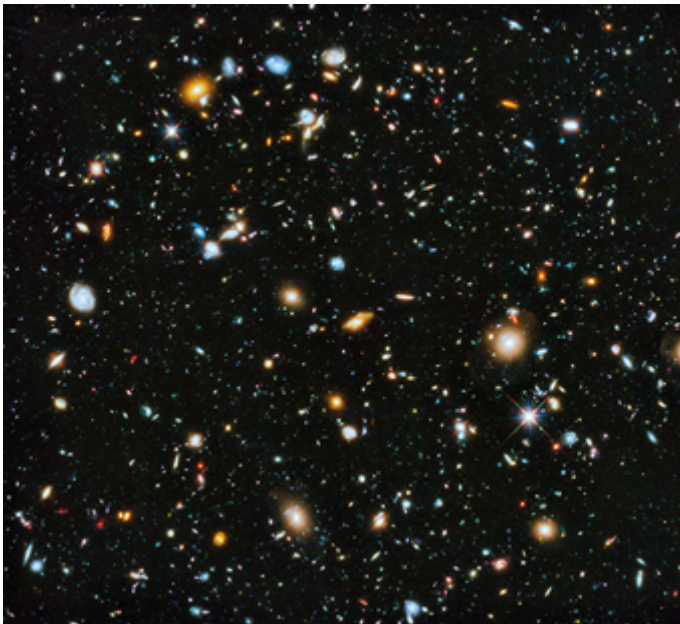


Deck the Hopewell halls...



### Better than Biscuits

One Sunday morning at a small rural church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits." He paused, "Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits."



### How Big Is God!

Not a question, but an awe-filled exclamation. There are no words to describe the magnitude of God's power of creation. Consider the photo at left, a snapshot of the universe as seen through the lens of the Hubble telescope.

Each point of light in the photo represents a galaxy; recently astronomers increased their estimate of galaxies in the universe to 120 billion.

Each galaxy contains millions or billions of stars; "our" Milky Way galaxy contains an estimated 100 billion stars, of which "our" sun is one.

How big is God? God only knows.