

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.*

August - September 2017

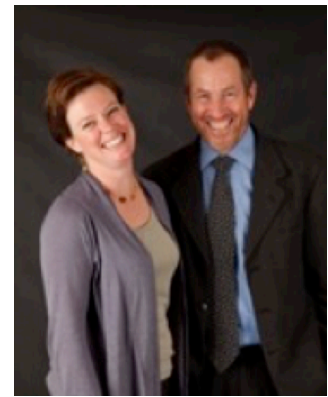
Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

Point of View

Point of view is very important in how we perceive the world around us. Our point of view is our perspective. It is how we interpret the world. How we interpret our relationships. How we interpret ourselves. Even, how we interpret God.

If I may, I would like to give you an example of a point of view. Recently, I was in Washington, D.C., for a wedding. While in Washington, with the encouragement of and in the company of my wife, Audra, I visited the offices of our state senators, Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown. Of course, without an appointment, I had no expectation of seeing them let alone speaking with them. However, their office staff was very courteous and listened to what we had to say concerning the upcoming health care legislation. After leaving the offices of Mr. Portman, as I was walking down the hallways of the Russell Senate Office Building, a very ornate and impressive building with walls and floors of white marble, I let my eyes wander to the ceiling. What do you suppose I saw there? I saw the scarlet and gray of OSU. In fact, when we left the Russell building to head over to Sherrod Brown's office in the Hart Senate Office Building, another white marble office building, I noticed that the sidewalks were paved with scarlet and gray. When I went to visit our nation's Capitol Building, another ornate white marble building, what do you suppose I found but more scarlet and gray. It seems with all the scarlet and gray of OSU in our nation's capital, the state of Ohio must be very important and politically powerful. Unfortunately, that is not the case, for if it were, we would be reading about President Kasich's brilliant leadership instead of President Trump's brilliant leadership.

In Romans 5:16, we read, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer." To no longer regard our world, our relationships, ourselves, even God from a human point of view--how is this possible, and what does it mean? I regarded the scarlet and gray from a human point of view, that is wrapped up around how it affects me. A human point of view, always has self interest in mind. To use the example above, the capitol is the seat of power of our nation, the greatest nation in the world. It is filled with scarlet and gray, the colors of OSU, the greatest university in the world, located in the great state of Ohio. I live in Ohio; therefore, I am great and powerful! You could say, "I am, the great and powerful Wizard of Oz!" Fortunately, God



created Toto. The human point of view that Paul is referring to is a selfish perspective. It is all about me and what I think is important. This all begins to change once we are Christ's. As Paul goes on to say, "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." We are now to look at ourselves, our neighbors, the world through the eyes of God.

What does this mean to look through the eyes of God? Practically, it means to forgive... "we are given the message of reconciliation." Forgiveness is love's introduction. The eye of God or the point of view of God is the point of view of love. "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, endures all things." In a word, love is forgiving. As it is said, "to forgive is divine."

We often struggle with our point of view. It is easy to fall back into old patterns, to view the world through our own eyes instead of with the eyes of God. The struggles of daily life often intrude, and we forget whose we are. You could restate a certain passage to show the pitfalls of life outside of Christ. It would read: We are impatient and cruel, we are jealous and boastful; we are arrogant and rude. We insist on our own way; we are irritable and resentful; we rejoice in revenge and are angry when someone else wins. We do not bear all things, we do not believe, we do not have hope, and we will not endure. Sounds harsh and, in a word, unforgetting.

Paul ends his passage in 2 Corinthians 5 with these words, "So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God." I often do not feel like I am much of an ambassador for Christ. And I do not see myself as the righteousness of God. I do not think I am alone in thinking that. I believe this is because we have a difficult time seeing ourselves as God's new creation. But one thing that I strive to do in Christ is to believe, to hope, and to endure for the hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ.

UMW Report - *Marsha Clayborne, Secretary*

The United Methodist Women met at the church for their July meeting on Tuesday the 11th. Jean Riley and Ellen Kaiser were the hosts and prepared a nice lunch. Joan Coon recited the blessing for the seven members. Barb Butler started the meeting, and the secretary and treasury report was given along with dues and missions collected. Barb told the group that the theme this year for UMW Sunday is "What does the Lord require of us."

The group rescheduled the UMW/church picnic for Tuesday, September 12 at the shelter house in Gambier next to the Gambier Community Library at 5:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish and silent auction items to share. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

Jean Riley started the program with devotions about Martha as told in Luke 10. Jean remembered someone saying in her younger years, "Just be yourself and people will love you just the way you are."

The next meeting will be at the home of Marsha Clayborne on Tuesday, August 8 at 12:00 PM. Members are to bring their items for "New Directions" so Jean Riley can distribute them.

School Supplies Drive



UMW will head up the collection of school supplies during early August. Please place items you want to donate in a collection box that will be in the Sunday school room.

Hopewell's Foundation Families - *Elmer J. Brown Family* - by Marsha Clayborne

[Ed. note: This article is another product of Marsha's research about families who are memorialized in the beautiful stained glass windows at Hopewell church.]

Elmer J. Brown was born on October 20, 1865, in Wayne Township of Knox County and spent most of his life in Monroe and Pleasant Townships. He was the son of Joseph and Anna Scott Brown, both natives of this county. Grandfather William Brown came from the State of Maryland and established his home in Knox County in the early pioneer days. Elmer's father Joseph Brown was born and grew up to manhood in Monroe Township; he spent his life here engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1890 when he moved to Effingham County, Illinois, and started farming there.

Elmer's mother died when he was a small boy. He spent most of his youth on the farm and attended the district schools and later Ohio Northern University in Ada, taking teachers courses. This well prepared him for his chosen profession. He taught for a period of 15 years in the public schools of Knox County and became one of the leading educators of the county. His teaching was mostly in Monroe and Pleasant Townships, including Hopewell School on Hopewell Road, close to the Pleasant Grange. (Mick and Phyllis Gourley now own and occupy the schoolhouse.) Elmer also engaged in farming during that period.

Elmer married Jennie C. Sellers, daughter of Frank and Frances Durbin Sellers of Knox County, on June 18, 1891. They had five sons: Sterl, Ray, Carl, Paul, and Lloyd. The family home was located on Hopewell Road across from Breece Road. Elmer Brown had lived on the farm since his marriage, and in 1897 he gave up teaching to devote his exclusive attention to general farming, making a specialty of raising potatoes and chickens and having great success with both. He owned 62 acres of productive land.

Politically, Mr. Brown was a Democrat and a member of the school board in Pleasant Township. He had been a frequent delegate to county, district, and state political conventions. He and his family belonged to the Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church, and he was a trustee and steward of the church, active in church and Sunday school work.

Elmer was 50 years old in 1915 when construction of the Hopewell church building began. He and his wife Jennie were also members of Pleasant Grange. Jennie was a homemaker and a member of the Ladies Aid.

Elmer died on November 6, 1945, at the age of 80. Jennie died in 1963 at the age of 91. Elmer, Jennie, and three of their sons are buried in the Hopewell Cemetery.

The congregation of today owes much to the Elmer J. Brown family for their part in making the 101-year-old Hopewell church a special place.



The window above the altar bears the name "E J Brown." Could the name represent E(lmer) and J(ennie) Brown, contracted to fit the available space?

Favorite Hymns

Politicians: Standing on the Promises

IRS Agents: I Surrender All

Contractors: The Church's One Foundation

Tailors: Holy, Holy, Holy

Dentists: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Realtors: I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop



Birthdays

August

- 1 Mick Gourley, Sr.
- 4 Danielle Kanuckel
- 15 Gina Lawhon
- 15 Lindsey Teter
- 16 Linda Joseph
- 18 Irma Newland
- 19 Bonnie Lawhon
- 24 Mick Kanuckel
- 27 Mary Smith
- 27 Wayne Clayborne
- 29 Mike Dumbaugh
- 30 Bill Lawhon
- 30 John Johnson
- 31 Seth Lawhon

September

- 2 George Ander
- 4 Natalie Gourley
- 5 Virginia Skinner
- 7 Corby Coon
- 8 Julie Britton
- 14 Ron Skinner
- 15 Jessica Hartney
- 15 Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe
- 18 Jean Riley
- 18 Bob Kaiser
- 20 Dorothy Ander
- 22 Cary Purcell
- 23 Kathy Kanuckel
- 24 Eleanor Doup
- 24 Marsha Clayborne
- 25 Don Russell
- 25 Amelia Kanuckel

Special Events in August – September...

Tuesday, August 8 – UMW at the home of Marsha Clayborne at noon.

Tuesday, September 12 – UMW Family picnic, 5:30 PM at Gambier Community Shelter. Table service and drinks are provided. Bring items for the silent auction to benefit UMW missions.

Follow Hopewell UMC

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Hopewell in Photos...



Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe had a starring role as "Kim MacAfee" in the MTVArts production of "Bye Bye Birdie." She acted, sang, and danced her way into the hearts of audiences in six shows over two weekends.



Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength .

John Wesley
"Instructions for Singing"

The Carpenters

**Sing, sing a song
Sing out loud
Sing out strong
Just sing,
sing a song**

**Wesley translated by The Carpenters
(who were/are Methodists)**



All Are Welcome – [This invitation was issued by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community...along the lines of the United Methodist slogan, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."]

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, black and proud, y no habla Ingles.

We extend a special welcome to those who are new-borns, poor as dirt, skinny as a rail, got a hitch in their git-along, or just plain can't sing. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Luther, or more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Maria's confirmation.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 40 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters, and people who stay up too late at night. If you're having problems, or you're down in the dumps, or you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too. If you blew all your offering money at Scioto Downs, you're welcome here.

We offer a special welcome to those who could lose a few pounds, think the earth is flat, work too hard, can't spell, or came because grandma's in town and wanted to go to church. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, are three-times divorced, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!

Welcome home!



SHEPHERD'S VOICE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. - JOHN 10:27 NIV

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