

# 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.*

*January - February 2014*

### **In the New Year, What Makes a Large Church?** – Rev. Don and Irma Newland

Through the years Irma and I have been part of a dozen or so congregations. We were married to one another in Lima, Ohio, and the next Sunday she sat in a pew in tiny Saguache, Colorado, a minister's wife. Did you ever consider that churches like people do develop personalities? Some folks have pleasant and sweet personalities which do not change much with time; others perhaps, not so much. We can all examine self. All of this is not to judge individuals especially with respect to personality because so many factors enter into shaping lives and making us who we are.

Yes, churches also develop personalities. Some congregations are very small, like, for instance that Saguache, Colorado congregation, but they were so gracious toward us. Other churches are more substantial in numbers and resources. It is the personality of the church that ultimately makes a difference. Some churches may over the years want to be "small" -- small in welcome to others, small in vision, small in hope and faith. Other larger congregations may "sleep through" a couple of decades, and suddenly, that much-favored larger church (with a lot of money, which may not be a blessing) is now in both vision and location in deep trouble. It is the personality! I/we want to make it clear that we have been blessed by the kindness of folks in virtually every congregation that we served.

So, the question is, "what now and in the New Year will make us a large church?" Will it be to inherit a lot of money? That would be nice! Will it be the preacher? That is a factor for sure. Perhaps, however, the answer is that what will make us "large" has more to do with how willing we are to not think small, be pessimistic or to turn others away because it is evident that we ourselves have not found amazing grace and hope in God and our Lord Jesus Christ. What is our vision; how large are we? God Bless you!



No thing is small,  
All of special worth:  
Star--- Snowflake---sparrow's fall,  
A Bethlehem birth.

--Mary Cryder,  
late aunt of Bob Joseph



### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** – *Don Russell, Administrative Council Chairperson*

With the coming of the New Year, the Hopewell Church will, no doubt, be challenged by issues, both old and new. We have reason to be optimistic about our abilities to face and overcome these challenges due to our faith in God and the marked increase in the interest in, and membership of, the many committees who are responsible for ensuring the operation and vitality of our church in the New Year.

As you can see in looking through the rolls of the church committee membership, there, in addition to increased numbers, is a healthy mix of diversity, which should give our committees the ability to deal effectively with issues as they occur.

Romans 12:2b says, "be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect."

So, with these inspired words and increased numbers of congregants willing to serve His church, we should all be excited about the coming of 2014 and its possibilities!

Yours in Christ,  
Don Russell

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

On Tuesday, December 10, the United Methodist Women met at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup for lunch and the silent auction. Nine members and one guest were present. Joan Coon led the prayer. President Barb Butler conducted the meeting. Dues, missions and birthday money were collected, followed by the secretary and treasurer's report. The group agreed to order 30 Ultimate Cloths for sale.

The program began with devotions by Joan Coon. They were called "Happy Birthday, Jesus" and "Christmas Shopping". The scripture was Matthew 27: 21-23. Joan led the group in a game called "Holiday Word Scramble," won by Joanne Purcell, and "It's a Wonderful Life," won by Ellen Kaiser. Using goodies that Barb had brought, the UMW made treat bags for the children and youth attending Family Night, December 15. The group brought items to be sold in the silent auction (which brought in \$136.00). Thanks to everyone for the support. Barb Butler volunteered to have the next meeting at her home in March. There will be no meetings in January and February due to weather concerns.

#### **Ultimate Cloth Sale**

To purchase Ultimate Cloths, contact Marsh Clayborne or any member of the UMW. The cloths are \$6 or 2 for \$10. They make nice gifts and basically do all the cleaning for you. They can be used for your home, car, or any job that needs to be done. They can be washed in the washing machine, used over and over again, and have a 5-year guarantee.

### **Financial Statement** -- *submitted by Barb Butler*

Beginning Balance September 31, 2013	\$ 8,111.74
Receipts (Oct, Nov, Dec 22)	\$ 8,922.71
Disbursements (Oct, Nov, Dec 23)	\$ (4,637.49)
Balance as of 12-23-2013	\$12,396.96
Bldg. Fund: Savings/Certificate	\$21,087.03



## Our Comprehensive Church Calendar – Don Newland

As part of the work of our Hopewell Church Vision and Planning team, we are continuing with the idea of a comprehensive Church Calendar.

A small volunteer committee met late this past August to “lay out” a church calendar from September through the end of December 2013. This was accomplished. The calendar was not just “dates and times,” but also it was seen as a way to highlight the things we wanted to do and accomplish together (i.e., the “program”) and to give everyone an opportunity to know this while giving time for personal and family plans. We had often heard, “I didn’t know about” this or that event – now we hear that less often than in the past.

When we met recently as a Vision team, we evaluated the Calendar planning idea, along with the extent to which the program had been accomplished from September through early December 2013. The evaluation was favorable in terms of members and friends knowing “what was going on” and what had been carried through and accomplished. So in that early December Vision team meeting, we decided to move ahead with the calendar process, and a number of persons offered to meet to plan the Comprehensive Church Calendar for January through June 2014 period. When this initial planning has been accomplished, the calendar will be shared so that refinements (additions, improvements, changes, etc.) can be offered. There will also be a process to get the calendar “on line,” in addition to the printed version, for easy accessibility.

Our idea is that it is important for every member and friend of the Hopewell Church to be informed and included through the calendar, the newsletter and the “on line” process. In this way we can “build up” and be inclusive as a caring Church Body.

### Please pray for

- persons on our prayer list and prayer chain.
- persons in our community who are insecure in their food supply and housing.
- our men and women in uniform and their families.
- Hopewell United Methodist Church and our church neighbors.
- our nation and our government leaders.
- college students at Kenyon and MVNU.
- the unspoken hurts, needs and concerns of us all.
- peace on Earth...”and let it begin with me.”

### January and February Birthdays

Jan	4	DJ Johnson
Feb	1	Don Newland
	1	Julie Zimmerman
	4	Anne Russell
	9	Shad Bevington
	11	Brad Coon
	11	Amy Yashnyk
	13	Howard Workman
	20	Donna Lybarger
	23	Alivia Zimmerman
	28	Michael Padula



“Unto us, a Child is born.”  
(No relayed message, second hand.)

“Unto us a Son is given.”  
(He comes Himself, as God has planned.)

--Mary Cryder

## Vision Progress Report – Bob Joseph, Vision team leader

At the Dec 3 meeting, the Vision team reviewed progress on (and plans for) each of the key Opportunities. What a great year of effort! Just look at this brief listing of what has been accomplished. So many have been involved and committed...with 'miles to go before we sleep.'

### Opportunity: **Improve communications among members**

- Established a central calendar of activities
- Published six bimonthly newsletters
- Published and used the prayer chain
- Defined and enlarged committees...and published members' names
- Posted several activities on Facebook page

### Opportunity: **Attract and retain children**

- Involved children in worship; on Dec 1, children sang in worship
- Prepared activity bags for children's use during worship
- For several weeks, held children's Sunday school; reworking the concept
- Established Christian Education committee
- Considering summer day camp and church camp scholarship for 2014

### Opportunity: **Improve financial stability**

- Added a Stewardship and Finance committee
- Held fundraisers: CES dinner; live auctions (netted \$133 on Dec 15); Tastefully Simple party; Kroger Community Rewards (\$28 to date)
- To promote legacy gifts, prepared a 'first draft' brochure
- Through the newsletter, informed inactive members of the church's needs

### Opportunity: **Increase involvement and commitment of current members**

- Continued and added mission projects: Interchurch and Humane Society aid
- Used 'family interview' form to learn of interests/expertise of new members
- Proposed 'Sock it to 'em' (socks/hats/gloves) collection for Interchurch Social Services
- Held church work day (spring)

### Opportunity: **Improve worship experience for members and visitors**

- Toward making every Sunday a special Sunday, added 'Earth Sunday' service
- Added Worship planning committee for 2014
- Increased member participation in worship (music, reading, lay speaking)
- Working on obtaining land for added parking

### Opportunity: **Increase church 'visibility'; Increase number of visitors and members**

- Issued news releases to print/radio/cable about coming events
- Added Membership and Evangelism committee
- Improved exterior lighting
- Coming soon: a new church sign, updated Web site ([www.mvhopewellumc.org](http://www.mvhopewellumc.org)), and color brochure

Now the challenges are to 1) maintain the momentum, 2) follow through on the good ideas generated to date, and 3) build on these ideas to make a stronger body of Christ at Hopewell UMC. To God be the Glory; great things God has done.



**Caution:** The newsletter cartoons represent the sense of humor of the editor(s) and do not necessarily convey any deep theological message, nor represent the beliefs and opinions of any denomination. Still, we hope you enjoy them.



**Hopewell United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council  
2014**

Council Chairperson - Don Russell

Lay Leader - Ellen Kaiser

Nominations:

Jean Riley (1)  
Bob Joseph (2)  
Don Newland (1)  
Joanne Purcell (2)

Pastor-Parish:

Barb Butler, chairperson (2)  
Bev Lahmon (1)  
Linda Joseph (3)  
Don Russell (2)  
Jean Riley (1)  
Ellen Kaiser, ex-officio

Trustees:

Cary Purcell (2)  
John Wolfe (3)  
Amy Yashnyk (2)  
Mickey Gourley (3)  
Bill Lawhon (3)



On Nov 12, the Hopewell family enjoyed the Amish meal, sponsored by UMW.



Worship:

Irma Newland  
Marsha Clayborne  
Donna Lybarger  
Bob Joseph  
John Wolfe

Stewardship and Finance

Barb Butler, Treasurer  
Don Russell  
Eleanor Doup, Audit  
Greg Yashnyk  
One person from Trustees

Christian Education

Bitsi Gourley  
Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe  
Sara Lawhon

Membership and Evangelism

Irma Newland  
Mary Smith  
Karolyn Smith  
Don Newland  
Bill Lawhon  
Bob Joseph

Lay Delegate to Conference

Linda Joseph  
Bill Lawhon, alternate

**A Hopewell History Moment** -- from the 1976 history by Rev. Dale Epple

“It must be noted that within the modern history of the charge, student pastors had come to serve the churches more and more. Presently [in 1976] the church is a student charge. The effectiveness of part-time ministerial service to membership has taken its toll. However, with the present financial strength of the congregation taken into consideration, it is difficult to see a favorable future for a full-time appointment. The budget of the Hopewell church has risen to a staggering \$4,538 for the year 1976. [\$18,588 in 2013\$\$; 2013 budget = \$34,417]

“Present membership at Hopewell officially stands at 51. Regular attendance at worship has fluctuated but remains around 20 persons per Sunday.” [est. average in 2013 = over 30]