

# HOPEWELL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'*

20220 Hopewell Road  
Gambier, OH 43022

*Summer Newsletter -- Jul-Sep 2012*

**Report to the Congregation** – *Highlights of Pastor Elliott Bush's report of June 12. (A complete report is attached to the e-mailed copy of this newsletter or available at Hopewell UMC.)*

Some observations about Hopewell UMC

- \*I find you to be an extraordinarily caring congregation...keeping in touch with and supporting each other.
- \*You are a welcoming congregation to strangers, showing appreciation if they stay.
- \*You are eager to deepen your faith through study, with a high percentage involved in classes and home studies. You are to be commended.
- \*You rise to a challenge. Mission giving has increased admirably.

With strengths like these you can certainly grow.

But there are also things about Hopewell UMC that concern me.

- \*There is deep conflict within the congregation, though it rarely finds expression. The church is divided over trying new things to attract more people and keeping things the way they are. Everyone, however, worries about the future. Members need to have honest discussion and find compromise so the church can move on.
- \*The congregation is aging, with many 'pillars' of the congregation in failing health. You need to think seriously about how to pass the torch, especially in music and the arts.
- \*There is frustrating inertia in the congregation and its leadership. Ideas are proposed, agreed on...and nothing happens. This may be due in part to the underlying conflict, individual busy-ness, and lack of pastoral leadership. But members need to put a higher priority on steadily moving toward the goals you set.

What do I see as priorities among the goals?

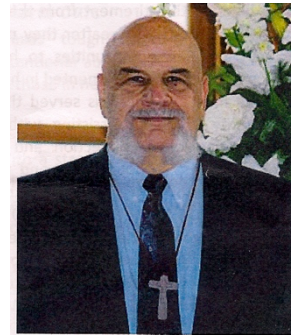
1. Parking needs to be expanded to provide room for more people.
2. "Children's Church" needs to be planned and ready for walk-in families with young children. Provide a place for children to go so their parents can focus on worship.

I am so happy that you will soon be moving on with an experienced licensed local pastor, in good health, who can actively work with you on meeting your goals and moving towards a healthy, happy future of ministry and service in the name of Jesus. God bless you all!



### **Meet the New Pastor and Family**

Pastor Joe and Katie Beran will join us at Hopewell UMC on July 15. Pastor Joe was born in Bucyrus in 1947. He and Katie made their home there until his retirement from the Bucyrus police force in 1990. Shortly thereafter they moved to Texas and actively pursued opportunities in mission and outreach, including Pastor Joe's service as an AmeriCorps volunteer and as a project manager/construction supervisor for Hurricane Rita disaster response.



Pastor Joe most recently served as local full time pastor at Falvey Memorial UMC (Wells, TX). That church was awarded the Texas Conference Small Church of the Year in 2011. In the community he has assisted with various initiatives to open doors for connection and ministry, e.g., school programs, a food pantry, and veterans programs.

Katie works with Joe in ministry opportunities, having served on the East District Leadership Team and Finance Committee. She also served as a Safe Sanctuary trainer, a Sexual Ethics Team member, an Early Response trainer, on Emmaus Walks and in Volunteers in Missions.

Desire to spend their retirement years closer to family has prompted the Berans to move back to Ohio where they will live in Fredericktown.

### **Annual Conference at Lakeside 2012 -- Anne Russell**

What an honor and blessing it was to be a delegate to Annual Conference, held during the week of June 18. As a "new" Methodist, it was a great learning experience about the breadth and impact of the church. Methodism is worldwide, and the church membership is growing outside the U.S. However, as we see the Hopewell church, membership is declining all across the U.S.

It was not all bad news though. The theme of the conference was "Planted in the Past, Rooted in the Future". To regain our strength in the U.S. and to fulfill our mission of transforming the world through Jesus Christ, there are plans and areas of promise. By returning to our early practices of lay-lead classes, using the Discipline more and "facing some hard facts while holding onto our vision", we will be able to more realistically change our future. We need to change our way of doing things if we are to attract the newer generations that rely on social media more than ever.

There were several churches in East Ohio conference that had to close. Homer was the closest one to us. Something that is an option is called a "Vital Merger" of two small congregations aren't able to stay alive. Both church buildings are sold, and one new church is built that serves both former congregations with new facilities and a new hope for the future. I am sure we do not want that to happen here, but I think realistically that the writing is on the wall: we need to come together to work harder to GROW our church and meet the needs of the community if we expect to be here next year so that we can once again send someone to Annual Conference.

A complete report of annual conference will be presented to the congregation on July 8th or 15th. Again, thank you for the blessing of being sent to conference.

**Trustee's Report – Cary Purcell**

Fellow members, the Board of Trustees will continue its efforts to attend to important matters of building maintenance and improvement as well as various other matters identified from time to time. The gracious contributions of the members, both monetary and personal services, are very much appreciated. Fortunately, the winter months were not difficult, but we do need help in maintaining the church throughout the year. We will be announcing a Summer Clean-Up Day for the building and grounds. Last year's Clean-Up Day was a huge success with some projects continuing for a few weeks, such as the repainting of the iron fence. Many thank to Don N. for his dogged determination to finish the project. We ask that all members seek a way to contribute to these ongoing efforts and hope to see you at the Summer Clean-Up Day.

In 2011 we made incredible strides to address and complete serious repairs to the building. However, some fixes were temporary. In the very near term we will need to address some major issues such as whether to re-side the exterior with vinyl siding or make significant repairs to the wood siding and repaint the entire exterior. Feel free to share your thoughts in open church discussion or chat with one of the Trustees to share your thoughts and ideas.

Regarding other important matters, efforts are being made to secure ownership or use of a small portion (acre or less) of the land directly across from the church for parking and other church matters. While the likely success of such efforts is in question, the efforts will be ongoing, and it would certainly be exciting if we can get it done.

We look forward to each of your continued efforts to make our church a nice place to be.

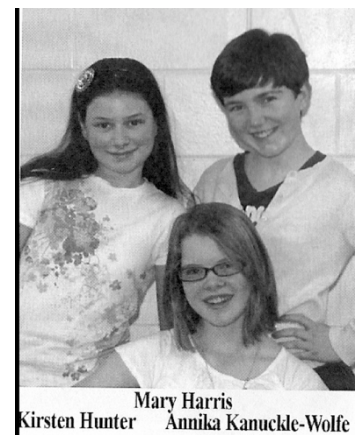
**Financial Summary (as of 5/31/2012) – Barb Butler**

	<u>Apr/May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Beginning Balance		\$6,219.73
Income	\$6,758.30	\$14,213.75
Expenses	\$6,722.55	\$15,109.84
Checking Balance (5/31/2012)		\$5,323.64
Other accounts (Bldg fund savings, CD's)		\$20,644.36

**Meet Actress Annika**

Annika Kanuckle-Wolfe recently held a significant role in Mt. Vernon High School's musical production, "Seussical." According to the playbill, "Annika, a sixth grader, was mayor in The Pied Piper. She is in gymnastics, 4-H, Musical Theater classes, book club, tennis, knitting club, and she plays trumpet. She loves to talk in accents and plans to be an editor, since she's always correcting articles she reads, not to mention people."

Annika also plays key roles at Hopewell UMC: Acolyte and usher. Best wishes and thank you, Annika. We're so glad to worship with you.



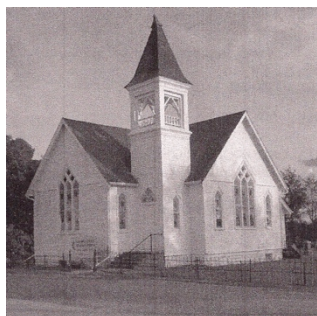
**UMW Picnic – June 12**

About 14 people gathered at the Gambier park shelter house for food, fellowship...and bingo! Anne Russell presented to Pastor Elliott a card of gratitude and gift cards in appreciation for his service. The group enjoyed great weather, excellent food, and many prizes.



**Hopewell UMC – Looking Back**

KNOX COUNTY REPUBLICAN NEWS—Tuesday, April 25, 1916: “Gambier, O. April 21— The new edifice of the Hopewell M.E. Church in Pleasant Township, two and one half miles South of here, will be dedicated Sunday, April 30. There will be services at 10:30 A.M., 2:30 P.M. and 7 P.M. At the noon hour a free dinner will be served in the Grange hall. The Rev. E. E. Whittaker, D.D., of Mt. Vernon, will assist the pastor, the Rev. Mr. [J. Edgar] Russell, in the services of the day. This Church has just completed one of the neatest and most modern edifices in the rural portion of Knox County. The cost will be about \$5000.”



<b>Hopewell Birthdays</b>			
Jul 2	Ellen Kaiser	Sep 5	Virginia Skinner
Jul 20	Katie Beran	Sep 7	Corby Coon
Jul 29	Barb Butler	Sep 14	Ron Skinner
Aug 5	Linda Hoy	Sep 15	Jessica Hartney
Aug 14	Dennis Taylor	Sep 15	Rylanne Kanuckle-Wolfe
Aug 16	Linda Joseph	Sep 18	Jean Riley
Aug 18	Irma Newland	Sep 18	Bob Kaiser
Aug 27	Mary Smith	Sep 22	Cary Purcell
Aug 27	Wayne Clayborne	Sep 24	Eleanor Doup
Aug 28	Taryn Boyd	Sep 24	Marsha Clayborne
		Sep 25	Don Russell

**Hopewell Tidbits – Marsha Clayborne**

\*Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month. Please bring food items to be donated to Interchurch.

\*Second Sunday is ‘Donut Sunday’

\*“The Upper Room” devotionals are found on the back table in the sanctuary. Please take one.

\*Thanks to Don Newland for updating and publishing the new Church directory!



### Annual Conference Health Kits – Anne Russell

Fifty-six health kits were sent from the Hopewell church to a central distribution center of the United Methodist Church. Conference-wide, a total of over 2,500 were collected, along with cleaning kits, sewing kits and school supplies--all destined for those in need when a disaster hits. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions (over \$300) and for help in putting the kits together. As usual, Hopewell was ready to join in with kindness and generosity.

### Obeying the Commandments

Abraham Lincoln was shown a painting and asked whether he thought it had been done by a good painter. "I think he is a good painter in that he observes the Lord's commandments," Lincoln said.

"What do you mean by that?" his host said.

Lincoln replied, "He hath not made himself the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters under the earth." – Edmund Fuller



#### Contacts:

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#### Hopewell Church Council -- 2012

- President Council- Don Russell
- Secretary- Jeannette Smith
- Treasurer- Barb Butler
- Lay Leader- Ellen Kaiser
- Trustee Chairperson- Cary Purcell
- PPR Chairperson- Barb Butler
- Lay Leadership Development Chairperson- Jean Riley
- Lay Member to Conference- Anne Russell
- UMW Representative- Marsha Clayborne

#### Newsletter Editors

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