

# HOPEWELL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

*20220 Hopewell Road*

*Gambier, OH 43022*

*Back-to-School Edition – Sep-Oct 2012*

### Pastor's Ponderings – *Pastor Joe Beran*

As of the deadline date for this newsletter it has been one month since Katie and I began our journey with Hopewell UMC (July 15th). I think much has been accomplished in such a short time. Friendships have begun to form! I am full of excitement and hope for Hopewell. It fills me with great pleasure to have the opportunity to reach out to you in this letter. If you have not worshiped with us, consider yourself invited!

I have explained to many that my motto has always been, "Do something even if it's wrong." That can come across like a steamroller. I am making every effort to control that tendency.

I also hope that my laid-back style has not upset the balance of your worship service. I really enjoy our worship time together and hope that you do also. I would hate to see any nervous twitches develop on the faces of those more inclined to order and form! I am working on cleaning up the beginning of the service. Some of those thoughts include starting out with some praise music that would signal the beginning of our worship. I would also like to consider having a healing service of sorts once a month. I have always felt like communion is way too important to fit it in to the regular service. What do you think about starting off communion Sunday with communion at the beginning? That truly would prepare us for worship!

I believe that our Administrative Council meeting schedule is more than adequate. We might even consider quarterly meetings. As organized and well managed as Hopewell affairs are, there aren't many last-minute crisis management situations. That being said, I would also throw out that I think we need to get together more often. Perhaps we would schedule a monthly meeting, devoting the "in between time" to leadership development or just plain fellowship. I really enjoyed doughnuts Sunday. Perhaps that is the police officer coming out in me!

I am anxious to absorb all the hopes, dreams, and plans that y'all have discussed over the last months. New ears can sometimes pick out important items that have fallen through the cracks and revitalize them. Looking forward to listing potential projects!



Both Katie and I were very pleased and impressed with the information we gained from the workshop we attended on Saturday, August 11th. The good folks at Marne UMC gave the workshop attendees a great example of radical hospitality. The session on **Effective Ministries for the Small Membership Church** contained vital and useful information. We should be striving to take advantage of our strength to do what God has called us to do here at Hopewell UMC.

I am currently working on a schedule for weekday Bible studies. Katie and I are thinking that a good starting point might be Wesley's Three Simple Rules. I would like to follow that up with a Beth Moore study on James. For those who didn't hear, the book of James is partly responsible for me turning to the Lord. Then I think it would be exciting for us to get together as a group and try to develop a personal theology on grace. Grace is an important part of our faith and hope. How it works may remain a mystery, but we can get a better idea by studying grace.

I would hope that we could do our Bible study in the homes of our members. I would also hope that you would consider the value of home church. The length of each study is yet to be determined. I would like to end each study with the communion service. Please make your feelings known to me. Remember that steamroller thing!

Allow me to close this pondering with two Scriptures that I think are pertinent to our future here at Hopewell: John 5:6b NIV "Do you want to get well?" and James 1:5-6 NIV "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

Shalom,  
Pastor Joe

## Hopewell Happenings

### **What a Surprise! #1**

On Pastor Joe's first Sunday in the pulpit (July 22), nine visitors walked into Hopewell Church. Pastor Joe and Katie's eldest daughter, son-in-law and grandson traveled from Bloomville, OH.



Stephanie, Darin and son Mason

Six members from Emerald Avenue UMC, Knoxville, TN, where Joe and Katie previously attended, drove nine hours to extend best wishes to Pastor Joe and Katie in their new assignment. We were treated to a lovely solo by Nita Privette. Stories were shared and stored for later use!



From left: Nita Privette, Cheryl Deaver, Francis and Rev. Bob Bean, Connie Loy, and Susie Worley

## What a Surprise! #2 – Marsha Clayborne



On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 38 members, family and guests celebrated Irma Newland's 'four score' birthday with a surprise party. What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful lady! She has played piano and organ for Hopewell Church for a long time. We all enjoy her music every Sunday and appreciate her efforts that add to our worship experience.



### Prayer Chain – Marsha Clayborne

The prayer chain, started by Jeannette Smith a few years ago, is a system for the timely sharing of joys and concerns within the congregation. Here is how it works: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call the first person on the prayer chain, Marsha Clayborne. She will then call the pastor, and so on down the list. If no one answers, that person will call the next one on the list. If you want to be on the prayer chain list, let Marsha know. And be sure to call her to have the prayer chain started...God hears and answers prayers.

Marsha Clayborne	501-5841
Pastor Joe & Katie Beran	507-9017
Jean Riley	392-6171
Eleanor Doup & Joan Coon	397-1810
Barb Butler	397-7424
Bev Lahmon	397-2906
Don & Irma Newland	392-1367
Mary & Karolyn Smith	427-2250
Erika Wolfe	397-5515
Donna Lybarger	501-7109
Don & Anne Russell	740-587-7376
Cary & Joanne Purcell	614-570-7809
Bob & Linda Joseph	614-565-1102

### UMW Report – Marsha Clayborne

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the United Methodist Women of Hopewell conducted the worship service with the theme "New Beginnings." The church congregation also welcomed our new pastor Joe Beran and his wife Katie. After the service a celebration of cake and goodies was enjoyed. The Berans also received some nice gifts from the congregation.

#### Thanks to...

...Brad Coon for mowing around the church.

...Joanne Purcell for filling in for Irma Newland, providing worship music during August.

...Eleanor Doup for decorating the church door for different seasons during the year.

## Fall Church “Spruce-Up” Scheduled – Cary Purcell, Trustees Chair

Come one, come all! We have scheduled the Church (inside and out) annual “Spruce-Up” for Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The fun, and a little work, will start immediately after services and run until at least 2-3 p.m., longer if we are on a roll. Hopefully, we can talk a few members into pitching in with a lunch or some sort of sustenance to replace those burnt calories. Projects will range from dusting to climbing short and tall ladders with hammers, nails, light bulbs and/or paint brushes in hand, so we should have a special project to fit a broad range of capabilities. Many of the projects are small, but some of the projects may require some follow up on later dates. Much like Don Newland’s quest to repaint the entire wrought-iron fence last year, we cannot expect to get everyone’s wish list completed in one day. However.....I have heard that Pastor Joe is quite the handyman.

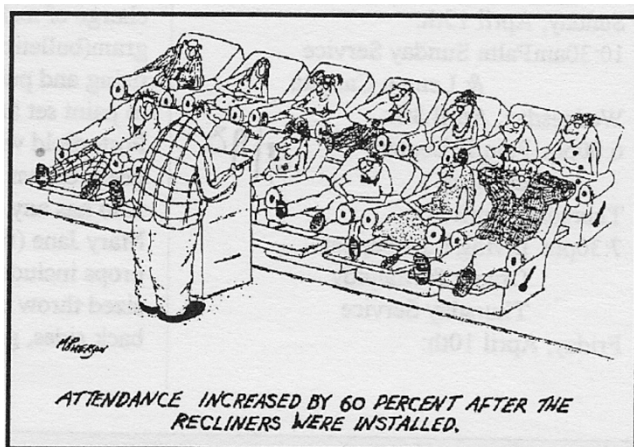
We will assemble and distribute a list of projects and necessary tools as part of the Sunday bulletins in the weeks prior to September 16<sup>th</sup>. While the list of projects is ever expanding, please free to suggest projects for consideration. Stay tuned and start gathering your tools and dust rags. Some supplies, such as paper towels, window cleaner, furniture polish, Murphy’s soap, small buckets, scrub brushes, dusters with extended handles will be needed.

I will post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please indicate your availability for Sunday. This way we can plan out the projects and the necessary supplies.

See you on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>!

## Church Parking Update – Cary Purcell, Esq.

Continuing my efforts to secure additional parking for our Church, I met with the person who should be in control of the property immediately across from the Church (to the North) and their attorney two weeks ago [end of July]. The property is still tied up in a Federal Bankruptcy proceeding but should be exiting the Bankruptcy Estate by the end of the year. Shortly thereafter, I will meet with the parties again to further discuss alternative means whereby Hopewell United Methodist Church could purchase, lease or secure an easement in regards to one to two acres of such land to at least facilitate parking. There can be no assurance that we will be successful, but we will make every effort to shed the reputation of “the little Church with no parking”.



Isn't it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
And common people like you and me  
Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass, a book of rules.  
And each must make – ere life has flown –  
A stumbling block  
Or a steppingstone. – R. L. Sharpe

## Notes to Hopewell UM Church

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and the bountiful meal. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Jeannette did love her church family.

*--Sincerely, the Family of Jeannette Smith*

Thanks to our church family for all the cards, prayers and concerns expressed during John's illness and at the time of his passing. Hopewell UMC meant so much to John. He loved working for the church and for the Lord. He would have been pleased with the beautiful flowers sent in his memory and the delightful dinner prepared for the family. Thanks again for all your support.

*--In Christian Love, Barb and the Family of John Butler*

Thank you, Hopewell Church, for your warm hearts that welcomed Joe and me into the family at Hopewell United Methodist Church. We felt your love from the beginning of our time here.

We sincerely thank you for the great pounding. Not just canned goods, but homemade noodles, zucchini bread, fresh-baked bread and strawberry jam highlighted our treats.

I thank you for quickly learning my passions for weaving and quilting and for giving me leads to pursue those activities in our new home.

All in all, it has been a wonderful first month at Hopewell! We already feel as if we belong here!

*--Katie Beran*

## A Glimpse at Hopewell History -- from the 1976 history by Rev. Dale Epple

A statement in the Quarterly Conference of Dec. 31, 1881 gives at least sketchy evidence that Hopewell and Gambier [societies] were established in the same year of 1832. Ohio Conference records from the 1830's show that prior to 1832 there was no permanent preaching place in Mt. Vernon. From then onwards, Mt. Vernon was a regular appointment. Gambier Methodists, according to record traveled to the Pleasant Valley (Monroe Mills) area for worship with other Methodists at Browne's house on Schenk's Creek. It is doubtful that Methodists in the Hopewell area traveled that far. It is more likely that Hopewell was an area into which forays of the Mt. Vernon circuit riders ventured, or that members of the society journeyed into Mt. Vernon for worship.

A frame structure 36' by 40' was built under the auspices of Rev. Allen Moffat in 1855.

## Mt. Vernon CROP Hunger Walk 2012 – October 14

Would you walk...or sponsor a walker...in the 2012 CROP walk? The 3-mile Mount Vernon CROP Hunger Walk will begin at **Public Square**. Registration is 1:30-2 p.m. We will walk to Riverside Park and back. 25% of funds raised will go to Inner Church Social Services to fight hunger in our community.

## Have you visited...

...Hopewell UMC's Facebook page? <http://www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon>

## Would you, please,...

...call or e-mail your cell phone number to Pastor Joe to help him get connected?

## Scioto Ridge Boys and Betsy – November 4

The SRB and Betsy will be at Hopewell church on November 4<sup>th</sup> to praise the Lord through song and testimony. The “Boys” have been sharing their message through song in various venues throughout Ohio and at the Indiana State Fair this year. They have sung outdoors, in a barn, in churches and retirement centers. The members of the group are Mark Snider, Bob Houston, Ray Miller, Betsy Paster and Hopewell’s own, Bob Joseph. Invite your friends and family to join Hopewell on the afternoon of November 4<sup>th</sup> (details to follow). As the Boys sometimes sing, “Let’s Raise the Roof Off This Place.”



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### Let Us Pray...

...as a new school year begins, for the students in our congregation (and beyond), for their teachers and for the staff that supports them. And please pray for parents that they may encourage their children to learn at home, in school...and in church.

...for our men and women serving in the military, and for their families.

### Hopewell Birthdays (September/October)

Sep 5	Virginia Skinner	Sep 24	Eleanor Doup
Sep 7	Corby Coon	Sep 24	Marsha Clayborne
Sep 14	Ron Skinner	Sep 25	Don Russell
Sep 15	Jessica Hartney		
Sep 15	Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe	Oct 8	Ellie Purcell
Sep 18	Jean Riley	Oct 18	Bev Lahmon
Sep 18	Bob Kaiser	Oct 19	Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
Sep 22	Cary Purcell	Oct 21	Aubrey Purcell

### Contacts:

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Hopewell Church Council -- 2012

President Council- Don Russell, 740-587-7376

Secretary- Ellen Kaiser, 392-3607

Treasurer- Barb Butler, 397-7424

Lay Leader- Ellen Kaiser, 392-3607

Trustee Chairperson- Cary Purcell, 614-519-2430

PPR Chairperson- Barb Butler, 397-7424

Lay Leadership Development Chairperson- Jean Riley, 392-6171

Lay Member to Conference- Anne Russell, 740-587-7376

UMW Representative- Marsha Clayborne, 501-5841

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