

# HOPEWELL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

20220 Hopewell Road

Gambier, OH 43022

*Holidays Edition – Nov-Dec 2012*

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

Wow, this is a busy time of the year! We hardly get used to the fall weather when Thanksgiving sneaks up on us. And then there is no breather. Christmas season is right on Thanksgiving's heels.

There is more than fall in the air around Hopewell church. I feel some real excitement. There is anticipation in the air, and that's a wonderful thing. We are busy making plans on how and what we will do this holiday season. I hope you know we welcome all ideas. It is pertinent that things that are important to you do not fall through the cracks. I have to know what you are thinking if we are going to act on it.

We have begun to collect gloves, socks, and scarves that will be prayed over and delivered to a program that helps the needy and homeless. We have yet to determine just exactly where that might be but are leaning towards a shelter right in our area that helps women and families that have been subjected to domestic violence. I hope you join us in these efforts. There will be something for everyone to do.

I believe that when our church makes James 1:27 (*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."*) an intricate part of our mission statement we tap into unlimited graces and resources provided to us by God Almighty through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is important for us to remember that God will provide for those who are doing His will.

Let's concentrate on making the holiday seasons remaining in 2012 joyful beyond measure.

Let's also strive to be faithful to Jesus' commandment to love God above everything and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I heard a great song just today on the radio. It was called "Let Me Rediscover You, Lord." Isn't that a wonderful prayer? I believe that every day we should pray that. Every day as we head out into the mission field that God has provided for us, take just a second and utter those words: "Let me rediscover you, Lord."

I often stop and realize that I am falling in love with Katie all over again. Something that she says or something that she does reminds me of what attracted me to her in the beginning.

*...continued*



Our love affair with our Lord is the same way. “Let me fall in love with you all over again, Lord.” This is my prayer.

The holiday seasons are a great time for us to fall in love with God all over again. We are surrounded by His majesty. We have the beautiful fall colors, we see the bounty being harvested by our area farmers, we begin to anticipate Christmas and all that it means to us. How cool is that? Please commit yourself 100% to rediscovering our Lord.

Shalom,  
Pastor Joe

### **A View from the Distaff Side – Katie Beran**

Many of you know that I enjoy weaving. Most weavers spin the yarn that they weave, though I have not mastered that skill–yet. The piece of equipment that holds the fiber waiting to be twisted into yarn is called the distaff. Since spinning and weaving were considered women’s work, the female in the household often used to be called the distaff side. That’s me.

I like to think of myself as helping to hold all those great ideas (loose fibers) that Joe has and that you tell me about, waiting until you spin them into the yarn that becomes the cloth that is our journey as a church toward doing the work that God has for us. Sometimes I even get to help with the twisting.

Some of those ideas come up during UMW meetings, where our women encourage each other, and contribute to the worldwide work of the church. At the last meeting we agreed to help raise funds for the CROP walk, where we anticipate seven walkers!

Other ideas arise during Bible Study. Those Three Simple Rules have started some truly interesting conversations about doing harm without really thinking about it, and what doing good really could mean. I am anxious to see what great ideas will come up when everyone in the class submits their answers to Joe’s questions: “What would you do if you were not afraid?” and “If you had a God-sized wish, where cost and other resources were not a problem, what would you wish for our church?” We have some great thinkers in this church!

Another great idea came up when I was talking with Anne Russell. Joe has challenged us to collect scarves, gloves and socks for the homeless in our community. Anne’s granddaughter is very interested in helping, so she and I will meet in the office on Sunday mornings during Sunday School time and cut and sew fleece for scarves and mittens. We might even sneak in some Christian instruction! All are welcome to help cut, sew or learn about our faith!

My favorite idea in the Hopewell family is the fellowship at meals! Those covered dish meals are making my Weight Watchers meetings a real challenge! Nevertheless, I really look forward to the soup suppers this winter. I know that Barb will surprise us with a “soup-er” alternative to her cucumber sandwiches!

### **Coming Soon: New Carpet – Barb Butler**

The interior of our church will soon have a new look...the look of new (spruce color) carpet. The carpet is being donated by Barb and The Butler Family in memory of John. John was a very active member of Hopewell for thirty-four years. He served as council president, interim treasurer, trustee and any other responsibilities as needed. John is greatly missed.

**CROP Report – Pastor Joe Beran**



Sunday, October 14 was the CROP walk for hunger. Our church exceeded our past effort and our goal this year by a goodly amount. We collected \$367.00 for the effort. AND we were only three participants short of WINNING the effort for most church walkers! It was a fun time with a gang of 14 good people! Kudos for Hopewell!

I am always blown away by how the LORD can take our efforts and magnify them. To God be the glory!

Hopewell CROP walkers (from left) Marsha Clayborne, Joan Coon, Anne Russell, Madeline Walker; Rylanne, Kyler Annika and John Wolfe; Don Russell, and Don Newland. Not pictured: Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe, Bev Lahmon, Joe and Katie Beran.

**All Saints Day is Nov 4th.** Communion with the saints!

We will have a part of the service to remember those who have gone on ahead of us.

***Do United Methodists believe in Saints?***

United Methodists believe in saints, but not in the same manner as the Roman Catholic Church.

We recognize Matthew, Paul, John, Luke and other early followers of Jesus as saints, and countless numbers of United Methodist churches are named after these saints.

We also recognize and celebrate All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and "all the saints who from their labors rest."

However, our denomination does not have any system whereby people are elected to sainthood. We do not pray to saints, nor do we believe they serve as mediators to God. United Methodists call people "saints" because they exemplified the Christian life. In this sense, every Christian can be considered a saint.

United Methodists believe "... there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5-6a).

John Wesley believed we have much to learn from the saints, but he did not encourage anyone to worship them. He expressed concern about the Church of England's focus on saints' days and said that "most of the holy days were at present answering no valuable end."

Wesley's focus was entirely on the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

*--The Rev. J. Richard Peck for UMC 101*

**Financial Summary (June thru Sept -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2012)**

*– Barb Butler*

	<u>June-Sept</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Beginning Balance		\$6,219.73
Income	\$8,809.95	\$23,023.70
Expenses	\$7,837.50	<u>\$22,947.34</u>
Checking Balance 9/30/12		\$6,296.09
Other Accounts (Building Fund Saving & CD's)	\$20,646.39	

*No One Expected Me – from Eleanor Doup  
I dreamt death came the other night  
And heaven's gate swung wide.  
With kindly grace an angel came  
And ushered me inside.  
And there to my astonishment  
Stood folks I'd known on earth.  
Some I had judged as quite unfit  
And some of little worth.  
Indignant words rose to my lips  
But never were set free  
For every face showed stunned surprise...  
No one expected me.*

### **Trustees Report** – Cary Purcell, Trustees Chair

A huge Thank You to all of those who graciously gave of their time for the fall "Spruce- Up" event. The event was a rousing success with several projects completed that day, a couple that were completed in the days that followed, and a few that are ongoing. The mastery and coordination of tools, cleaning supplies and food was impressive. Both Pastor Joe and Katie proved to be enthusiastic and productive additions to the workforce. We look forward to seeing you all in your work attire again in the spring.

The Trustees are excited about the prospect of the new carpet to be installed in honor of John Butler in large part due to gracious donations of Barb Butler and her family. Hopefully by the time you read this we are enjoying the new look!

The Trustees will be meeting in November, and we look forward to sharing some exciting news about new members to the Board of Trustees.

At this point we have no updates available in relation to the parking situation. We will however be posting a sign up sheet for shoveling snow from the sidewalks and steps this winter. Can you believe it's that time again!



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

Revivals were regular in Gambier and Hopewell according to record. Between 1906-1907, 21 members were added to the charge, 13 at Epworth and 8 at Hopewell. Revivals were held in the winter normally, but at times also in the summer.

A review of the baptismal record shows periodic flourishes of immersions and sprinklings. Marriages were almost always performed in private homes or in the parsonage. Few ventured to have formal church weddings.

Class membership was a continuing regimen of the church. But in addition, as a result of new emphasis in the church in the latter years of the nineteenth century, Women's Societies, Epworth League, and the Junior League were initiated in local churches.

The church was much involved in the mission movement from the 1840's when the first overseas missions were begun as well as the continuing of the Home missions among the Indians in all areas of the U.S. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society abounded with charitable bazaars, dinners, socials, etc..

And one best not leave out the Sunday School movements that carried on their programs about nine months out of the year. The life of the church was very active, and in the era of little transportation, the church functioned as the center of the community for its members.

### **Have you visited...**

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

### **United Methodist Women (UMW) Report – Marsha Clayborne**

The UMW met for lunch at the home of Virginia Skinner. Barb Butler conducted the meeting, and Marsha Clayborne read devotions. Old business was discussed, and the ultimate cloths that were left over would be made listed for sale by a note in the Hopewell newsletter. There were four left over, and they would make a nice gift for Christmas or any occasion.

The group planned the program for Laity Sunday, October 21. The theme is “Women in Service”: Amy Yashnyk would portray ‘Anna,’ and Barb Butler and Ellen Kaiser would portray ‘Martha and Mary.’ Bev Lahmon received information from the district and also a nice memorial for Rose Wolfe, our UMW past president. A certificate and a candle were presented in memory of Rose.

The group also talked about advertising the Scioto Ridge Boys concert in the “Mount Vernon News.” The concert is scheduled for Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Refreshments would be served.

The UMW voted to donate \$10 each for four walkers in the group: Bev, Joan, Katie and Marsha. The UMW will meet at Mullets for supper on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. The next UMW meeting will be at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

### **Hopewell Tidbits – Marsha Clayborne**

On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, Annika Wolfe sang *a cappella* the beautiful hymn, “Amazing Grace.” What a treat!

Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> was clean-up day at the Hopewell Church. Thanks to head trustee Cary Purcell and everyone who helped spruce up our church inside and out.

Bible Study is on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM. Pastor Joe is teaching the group from the book “Three Simple Rules.” Everyone is invited.

October 7<sup>th</sup> was World Wide Communion Sunday. Thanks to Bev Lahmon for baking homemade bread.

October 14<sup>th</sup> was Soup Sunday and CROP Walk Sunday. Thanks to all who brought the different kinds of soup, salad, desserts and drink. Everything is always delicious homemade.

October 21<sup>st</sup> was Laity Sunday. The ladies of Hopewell Church presented the program with the theme, “Women in Service.”



*Laity Sunday participants (from left) Ellen Kaiser, Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe, Jean Riley, Marsha Clayborne, Anne Russell, and Barb Butler.  
Not shown: Amy Yashnyk*

### **In John Wesley’s Words...**

My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great.



**Scioto Ridge Boys and Betsy – November 4**

The SRB and Betsy will be at Hopewell church at 3PM 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 across 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 (from left) Bob Joseph, Bob Houston, Ray Miller, Mark Snider, and Betsy Paster. Invite your friends and family to join Hopewell on the afternoon of November 4<sup>th</sup>. There’s no admission, but a love offering will be received, and refreshments will follow.



**Let Us Pray...**

- ...as cold weather sets in, for those who long for warm clothes and shelter.
- ...for those whose lives are complicated by physical and emotional pain.
- ...for our men and women serving in the military, and for their families.

**Hopewell Birthdays**  
(November/December)

Nov	28	Molly Mae Teeter
	29	Bob Joseph
Dec	7	Joan Coon
	7	Joe Beran
	17	Marilyn Butcher
	21	Brian Zimmerman
	21	Emily Hauger

**What My Mom Taught Me** -- *Contributed by Eleanor Doup from The Country Register*

- Religion:** “You better pray that comes out of the carpet!”
- Logic:** “Because I said so, that’s why!”
- Wisdom:** “When you get to my age you’ll understand!”
- Irony:** “Keep crying and I’ll give you something to cry about!”
- Justice:** “One day you’ll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!”

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**Hopewell Church Council -- 2012**

- Council President - Don Russell, 740-587-7376
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- Lay Leadership Development Chairperson- Jean Riley, 392-6171
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