

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

20220 Hopewell Road

Gambier, OH 43022

January-February 2013

Pastor's Ponderings – *Pastor Joe Beran*

Whew! Greetings and Happy New Year! 2013! Where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday we were worried about Y2K! And here we are, survivors of the Mayan's Day of Doom. When will I learn that God's ways are not my ways? It sure is easy to get caught up in the world. Oh, when will I learn?

Enough of that stuff. We are not to look back on past mistakes but to the future. Katie and I are excited about springtime in Ohio. We are also excited about assembling great minds at Hopewell to form a visionary team. The exact number of team members is not set, and there are a few details to work out. I hope you are holding this process up in your prayers. This team will be allowed to let their minds run wild. They will talk about all aspects of our church. The present and future will be looked at. Worship service and observation of seasons and holidays will be considered. It is an exciting time!

We hope all of you had a memorable Christmas time. The Beran home sure did. Katie and I enjoyed family and friends at a leisure pace like we had not been able to do for a number of years. The Yule time was savored. We kept our focus on the reason for the season but also joined in on the merriment that Christmas provided. Wonderful! We even enjoyed the snow that storm Euclid provided us on our anniversary the day after Christmas. I hope by now we have expressed our gratitude to all of you for what you did for us for Christmas. If not, please know how grateful Katie and I are for your acts of kindness. You helped us to have a joyful and merry Christmas.

2013 is a time for us to roll up our sleeves and get busy. We want to quickly have a couple of meetings so that we can remind everyone of which committee you have promised to serve. We also want to set up our Visionaries. I have asked you to be praying, as Katie and I have been, for this group on vision. We'll plan to have in place perhaps as many as 10 members of this church who will sit on this visions group.



Continued...

These meetings will be held at our Sunday School time and will always be open to ALL Hopewell folks. We will have bimonthly meetings scheduled, but the Visionaries may meet more if they decide to. We hope to establish a church calendar and allow our minds to "run wild" for Jesus!

I am certain I am missing something. If so come to church and we can talk about it!

Shalom,
Pastor Joe

UMW Report – *Marsha Clayborne*

On December 11, the UMW meeting and silent auction were held at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup. The hostesses prepared a wonderful meal. Joan Coon read the devotions and a story called "Honk if you love Jesus." The group played some Christmas games, and Katie Beran told the story about the candy cane.

New UMW officers for 2013 were nominated: Barb Butler – President; Ellen Kaiser – Vice President; Marsha Clayborne – Secretary-Treasurer. The group also discussed how the UMW could raise money in 2013. The Silent Auction raised \$83 for the group.

The next UMW meeting will be held at Barb Butler's home in March because of uncertain weather in January and February. The meeting was adjourned by Jean Riley.

Trustee's Report --*Cary Purcell*

We still have no word on the parking issues and potential availability of land across the street, but I will be making some phone calls after the first of the year.

I will prepare and post a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help shovel the steps and walk-up area this winter. With the numbers that we have, no one should have to sign up for more than 3 times during all of January/February/March. Please look to the Bulletin Board for the sign-up sheet and details.

Please welcome John Wolfe to our Board of Trustees. John has been a ready volunteer for many projects, and his input will be much appreciated. And a big thank you to all of the current Board of Trustees members: Howard Workman, Don Newland and Don Russell. While all volunteers are welcome, I would really like to encourage one or more of the women of the church to explore the opportunity to be part of the Board of Trustees.

The new carpet is very nice and adds a great deal of color to the church. Please be sure to make an extra effort to wipe your feet and be sure your shoes and boots are free of mud and grit before you step upon the new carpet. I am sure we will need to clean the carpet more often no matter how careful we are, but your efforts will be appreciated.



Happy New Year 2013!

"Make changes, not resolutions."

--sign at St. John Neumann
Catholic Church, Sunbury

A View from the Distaff Side – *Katie Beran*

As I shoveled a great deal of snow this morning (again), I tried to find some theology in it.

God's grace showered abundantly upon us? I couldn't get very far with that one, since I was not exactly glorifying the Maker of all this white stuff.

How about sin, and its continuing presence in our lives? Again, it was not a good fit—granted, the snow kept falling (and falling and falling...) just like sin keeps rearing its ugly head in my life, but how was shoveling it into neat piles off the driveway doing any good? I just could not make it make any sense.

Instead, I turn to my wonderful nephew, Jack. He is one of my favorite people.

Jack is a sophomore at the University of Dayton, and a very spiritual young man. He has even established a "blog" on which to publish his thoughts on the role of Christ and His church in our lives. I was never that brave about my Christianity at his age! He truly wants to make a difference in the lives of those who read his musings, and I think that he will.

However, as I read the fourth of his postings, I was reminded of the origin my eighth-grade teacher gave for the term "sophomore." She said that we call them sophomores because they think they are very wise.

Jack is indeed very wise for his years. I think that he is far wiser than I was at his age. Fortunately, God's plan is that we all add to our wisdom as we mature. Jack has great potential.

For example, this morning, he posted "5 New Year's Resolutions You Should Make." These included reading the Bible, witnessing to Christ in our daily lives, attending church more frequently, praying, and practicing humility. Who can argue with that?!?

Well, think about it for a minute.

First off, at my advanced age (and wisdom?), I have learned that it is never wise to use the words "you" and "should" in the same sentence. I surely have too many "I should's" to give anyone an opinion as to what they should. The most important thing I learned in 2005 was to never offer advice. Jack is sharp enough to learn that someday.

Second, I would change all his verbs. Those of us a little farther along in our walk with our Lord know that reading the Bible is never enough! We study the words, we study the meaning, and we study the application to our own lives. Reading does not take us far enough.

Witnessing is almost right, but our responsibility as Christ's saved is more to bring Christ into every part of every contact we make with every person we meet.

Attending church really misses the mark to me! I once heard that sitting in a pew does not make me a Christian any more than sitting in the garage makes me a car. I must live Christ's church...and make it a part of my being.

Praying is, of course, important, but once we have a true relationship with our beloved Father, begging, entreating, pleading for the needs of ourselves and others is probably closer to what we really do.

Practice humility? No, it is more that I need to totally subject myself to the will of my powerful and loving God, and walk in His ways. That makes me more than humble, it takes me from my present state of "I Surrender Some" to the place where I long to be.

I do think that Jack is on the right track and applaud his wonderful enthusiasm and courage to put his thoughts right out there for all to read. I guess the lesson for me is somewhere in Titus 2, which admonishes us to teach, encourage, and move all to God's place for them.

Aunt Katie needs to keep Jack writing and learning!

Calendar Notes

Bible Study begins again in January. Watch the bulletin for details.

Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany, Communion

Epiphany, which traditionally falls on January 6, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. Western Christians commemorate principally (but not solely) the visitation of the Biblical Magi to the Baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Eastern Christians commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. --from *Wikipedia*

Sunday, January 13 – The Baptism of Our Lord

The Baptism of the Lord commemorates Christ's Baptism by St. John the Baptist. Traditionally, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was celebrated on January 13, the octave (eighth) day of Epiphany. – from *Catholicism.about.com*

Sunday, February 3 - Communion

Sunday, February 10 – Transfiguration

The Transfiguration is an event in the New Testament in which Jesus is transfigured (or metamorphosed) and becomes radiant upon a mountain. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 17:1–9, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28–36) describe it, and 2 Peter 1:16–18 refers to it.

In these accounts, Jesus and three of his apostles go to a mountain (the Mount of Transfiguration). On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Jesus is then called "Son" by a voice in the sky, assumed to be God the Father, as in the Baptism of Jesus. --from *Wikipedia*

Wednesday, February 13 – Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, in the calendar of Western Christianity, is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. It is a moveable fast, falling on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. It can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.

According to the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered after the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned. --from *Wikipedia*

Sunday, February 17 – 1st Sunday in Lent. Easter is March 31.

Hopewell Birthdays

January

4 D. J. Johnson

February

1 Don Newland

1 Julie Zimmerman

4 Anne Russell

9 Shad Bevington

February

11 Brad Coon

11 Amy Yashnyk

13 Howard Workman

20 Donna Lybarger

23 Alivia Zimmerman

28 Michael Padula

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Paul's appeal is simple: Become in experience what you already are by God's grace. The Christian is risen with Christ; let him exhibit that new life. Footnote in Ryrice New International Version

Many Thanks – *Marsha Clayborne*

Many events in 2012 leading into the new year need our grateful thanks. The people are the reason why Hopewell United Methodist Church is what it is today.

Thank you to Barb Butler for the beautiful carpet in memory of John Butler...and for typing and printing the bulletin each week...and for her bookkeeping work.

Thank you to Don Newland for waxing the floors when needed, controlling the little critters that come in the church for warmth, and performing all the odd jobs that you do to keep the church going and to make it welcoming.

Thank you to Irma Newland for regulating the thermostat to make sure we are warm on Sunday mornings. We all love the sound of your beautiful music that fills the sanctuary each Sunday.

Thank you to Anne Russell for making the cloths that adorn the communion table, pulpit, cross, etc.

Thank you to Bob Joseph, Don Russell and Don Newland for filling in for our pastors when needed. Good job.

Thank you to Bev Lahmon for the Advent wreath that prepares us for this special time of year...and for the homemade bread that we share in communion.

Thank you to Eleanor Doup, Joan Coon, and Ellen Kaiser for the beautiful decorations that are needed each time to make the church more special.

Thanks to Donna Lybarger for putting up the numbers each Sunday so that we know what hymns to sing.

Thanks to all who take turns reading the scripture when asked.

Thank you to Brad Coon and Cary Purcell for doing the many chores outside and inside the church.

Thank you to Annika Wolfe for lighting the candles each Sunday...and for the beautiful songs that you and your sister Rylanne sing for us.

Thank you to Rylanne Wolfe and also to Madeline Walker for receiving the offering when needed.

Thank you to John Wolfe for the music provided for Annika and Rylanne. Also, for taking care of the speakers when there's a problem and taking care of the much-needed gravel in the parking area.

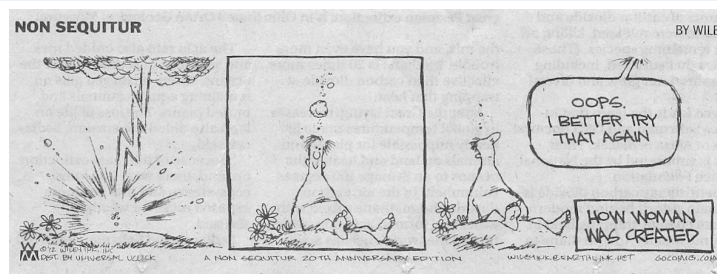
Thank you to Joanne Purcell for the music you contributed for Irma's birthday and the Christmas program. It was really fun to have Annika, Rylanne and Hollie help out.

Thank you to Bob and Linda Joseph for preparing the newsletter. We enjoy the news very much. And thanks to Bob for all the music you give us.

Thanks so much to Pastor Joe and Katie. You came to us when we needed you the most. Both of you are doing a great job. Too many things to mention, so thanks again.

I apologize if I forgot to mention your name. Everyone at Hopewell does his or her part, and I thank you. Let us make 2013 a year to remember.

[Editors' note: Thanks to Marsha Clayborne for her thoughtful cards at special occasions, for faithful submissions to the newsletter, and for all her quiet deeds that help make Hopewell UMC a warm, welcoming place.]





24 members and guests from Hopewell UMC enjoyed dinner at Mullet's on November 13.



Cary and Joanne Purcell became Hopewell UMC members on December 23.



Joe Beran asks "How much am I bid for this thingamajig" at the auction on December 9.



Rylanne, Annika and Hollie helped deck the halls at Hopewell UMC on December 9.

Contacts:

Pastor Joe Beran, 507-9017 joeberan1226@yahoo.com

Hopewell Church Council -- 2012-2013

Council President - 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

Newsletter Editors – Bob & Linda Joseph, 614-565-1102 rjoseph4@columbus.rr.com