

# HOPEWELL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

20220 Hopewell Road  
Gambier, OH 43022

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ  
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

*March-April 2013*

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

Greetings! I hope y'all had a nice Valentine's Day. Katie and I had a nice dinner at the restaurant where we first met. That was special. As I ponder the newsletter article, I also have one eye on my spring countdown calendar. When we read this newsletter it should be about three weeks to spring 2013. I think springtime and Lent have more in common than just "calendar space." Both should cause us to pause. We will have a bad case of cabin fever by now, I would think. Everyone will want to get out and do something.

I recently went in to Menard's super store in Lancaster. Their garden area was packed with thousands of seed packets and space was prepared for many thousands of live plants. Conversations on the how to, when to, and where to plant gardens will soon begin. We have friends who will be boasting of "first tomato" rights soon.

Daily I look for ways that would inspire all of us to seek out how and where and when to plant the seeds that we have been given through Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). If you begin to itch and squirm in your "cabins" as spring approaches, I hope you will also make plans to make this year a banner year for Hopewell United Methodist Church. I am praying that we have a bountiful harvest in the fields.

Along that line I continue to have a great deal of optimism about our Visions group. I think the idea needs tweaking still and has tremendous promise. It is not designed to replace any existing committee, nor is it intended to slow the momentum of those committees. Au contraire! 'Visions' is intended to stimulate, invigorate, and motivate! There were many good minds at our exploratory meeting. I think we'll make the best progress if we establish a small core group, with sessions open to everyone who wants to and can attend. Our next scheduled meeting is Sunday, February 24th at 9AM.

This newsletter includes some of the activities and worship services through March and April. Pancake Tuesday at Bob Evans was a great time of fellowship; Ash Wednesday service started our journey to Holy Week, which is right around the corner. Are you making an effort to "fast" from something during Lent?



*Continued...*

The Good Friday service will be the Easter Story through the burial of Jesus. It will be a rather solemn time of reflection, low lights, and no music. Jesus took our sins, grief, and sorrows upon Himself and brought them down into the grave with Him. God gives new life to those who trust In Him. Therefore, Jesus's death and resurrection allow us to begin a special relationship with the Lord Jesus.

One parting thought: I would like to have a service that focuses on the spring planting season for our farmers, offering our prayers for a good growing season and plentiful, rewarding harvest. What do you think?

Shalom,  
Pastor Joe

**Administrative Council Report -- Don Russell**

In our last council meeting, we briefly touched on church finances. As church members, we are all responsible for being good stewards and exercising sound fiscal planning in matters of safeguarding our church, thus ensuring its vitality.

Given the importance of a solid fiscal base, I ask that we all think and pray about our personal financial commitment as well as activities and events that we may pursue in order to ensure that Hopewell remains vibrant in this community.

**Trustee's Report -- Don Newland**

In Trustee Chair Cary Purcell's absence, I will report news about the furnace. About 18 months ago, the fuel oil furnace "shut down" mid-week in cold weather leaving us unsure about the Sunday worship. Cary arranged for the (serious) problem to be resolved quickly. In late January the furnace again shut down, and this time we found only a couple of nearby heating companies who repair fuel oil furnaces. After two service calls, and with the help of Barb Butler and John Wolfe, the furnace seems to be in good working order. However, the cost of repairs over the last 18 months has been about \$900. At the next Church Council meeting, Barb Butler will likely share information about the relatively high cost of fuel oil. In the meantime, we look forward to Easter, springtime...and warmer weather.

The trustees will meet soon to elect officers for next year, as required by The Discipline.

**Financial Statement as of 12/31/12 -- Barb Butler**

Checking account (operating)	
Beginning balance 1-1-12	\$6,220.
Income	\$32,617.
Expenses	<u>(\$32,805.)</u>
Closing balance 12/31/12	\$ 6,032.
Building Fund and Certificate	
Accounts Balance	\$20,932.

As figures show, the church's operating account closed the 2012 year at a slight loss (\$188) from the year 2011.

As we begin 2013, our income is still at a decline, and as of January 31, our checking account balance was \$4,605.

Figures for Thought

Monthly our expenditures for the pastor and conference expenses are \$2,106, plus fuel and electric. In January, our income total was \$1,303. What are your thoughts?

A Prayer: Help us, O Lord, when we want to do the right thing, but know not what it is. But help us most when we know perfectly well what we ought to do, and do not want to do it.

## Meet a Member -- Jean Riley

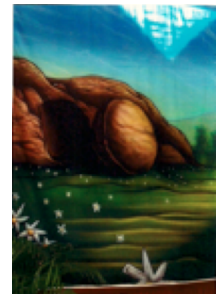


Jean Butcher was born in the family farmhouse on Hopewell Road (west of the church in the home where Michael and Rebecca Padula lived a few years ago). When she was three months old, she was dedicated at the Hopewell church. Jean went to Elmwood School in Mt. Vernon for one year, and when the family moved back to the farm, she rode the bus to Wiggins Street School from elementary through high school.

Jean Butcher and Bill Riley were married in the parsonage of Mulberry Street UMC. She and her husband, a long-distance truck driver, raised three children: Ellen Riley Kaiser, Victoria (Vicki) Yusko and Aaron. Bill passed away in 1999.

Attending Sunday School is among her many good memories of growing up in Hopewell Church: The class for children under age 12 met in the current office and read Bible stories printed on cards; classes of older youth and adults met simultaneously in the sanctuary and social room. She recalls that Alice Elliott played piano and a choir sang for worship services...typically attended by about 30 people. Families often sat in the same pews each week. One family of three always fell asleep during the sermon, while another member clipped his fingernails. Jean attended Methodist Youth Fellowship and recalls there were many youth in the church. On Easter Sunday, children typically wore new clothes.

Jean says she became a Christian in 1957 at the persistent invitation of friends Bonnie Ulrey and Helen Wagner. A year or so later, she was impressed by the sunrise service at a church on Avalon Road, but the Hopewell minister wasn't interested, so Jean and Ruth Smith (Barb Butler's mother) organized the sunrise service at Hopewell Church, beginning a tradition that continues today! And through her connections, the "Empty Tomb" painting came to the church.



Hopewell UMC has always been a close group of hardworking people. During difficult times many years ago, a long-time member stated that Hopewell Church would close. The United Methodist Women's group raised funds to help meet the church's budget: they often served banquets, a spring lamb dinner, and auction lunches. Jean notes that in years past the church held ice cream socials and covered dish dinners at the nearby Grange Hall, which had a kitchen.

Thank you, Jean, for your long-time, devoted membership in and many contributions to Hopewell UMC. May God bless you as you continue your walk with Him.

## Music Musings from the Benches -- Irma Newland

The season of Lent is now upon us, and with it comes a more dramatic, somber effect in our worship services. Music selections will direct us to a closer walk with our Lord as we remember his footsteps leading to the cross.

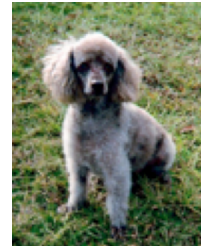
As I touch the keys of the organ and piano each Sunday morning, I am overwhelmed by the voices of the pew-choir behind me. No matter how familiar or unfamiliar the hymns might be, your voices are always there in unwavering praise to God.

During this season of Lent, let us lift up not only our voices, but also our eyes to the cross before us as we pray in song: "Jesus, keep me near the cross."

## **A Walk with God** -- *Marsha Clayborne*

As we enter the month of March, my first thought is of spring. Although my favorite time of the year is fall, I can't wait for nature to take its course with the newness of life...seeing the baby lambs and birds, hearing the croaking of frogs.

In any season our dog, Parker, loves to walk on the bike path. We both do, as a matter of fact. I love seeking out new things on the path and have seen the different kinds of birds...cardinals, blue jays, robins, and small birds that I can't identify. To me, the actual walk is with Parker and God. It's such a breath of fresh air that fills your body and soul.



"Parker"

We have seen deer, squirrels, and chipmunks, but of course that's to be expected near the woods and Kokosing River. We walk more than a mile and sometimes twice a day when the weather and our schedule permit. Parker might think that I'm walking with only him on the trail, but I am also walking with God. We won't tell Parker.

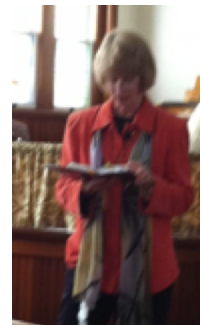
O Master, let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free.  
Tell me thy secret, help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

## **Emmaus** -- *Pastor Joe Beran*

Thank you for supporting Katie's and my efforts to be of service to our Heart of Ohio Emmaus. We both enjoy serving with that community. I recently volunteered as a spiritual guide on a boys' Chrysalis walk and will serve on a men's walk in March, too. Knowing that y'all worked with us on this is heartfelt. I appreciate that you welcomed me back in the pulpit after enjoying Katie during my absence. She is the smart one...y'all have known that!

We have high hopes of having Mariellen attend a fall women's walk. We also pray that our grandchildren might be encouraged to attend. If it sounds interesting to you or if you want to hear more just ask either of us or look at <http://www.heartofohioemmaus.org>

**De Colores!**



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
at Bob Evans, attended by 13.

## **Communion Sunday Giving Opportunity** -- *Joan Coon*

The Knox County Humane Society needs assorted items to provide comfort and care for the many animals that they are helping. Please bring any of the items listed below on Communion Sunday along with your food pantry donations.

Items for the shelter are kitty litter, cat treats, Purina Kitten Chow, Purina Adult Cat Chow, toys for dogs and cats, Kongs (toys that give dogs something to do), peanut butter (to use with Kongs), Pedigree Puppy Food, Pedigree Adult Dog Food, dog treats, paper towels, Lysol Wipes, trash bags, and used towels and blankets.

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

Our March meeting will be held at the home of Barb Butler.

The UMW is a community of women whose purpose is to know God, to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative and supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in helping people locally, in the United States, and around the world.

A year ago last April on Easter Sunday, we lost our past president and good friend, Rose Wolfe. She will always be remembered for the work she did for the church.

## **Hopewell Tidbits** -- *Marsha Clayborne*

Beverly Lahmon will be leaving for Killeen, TX around March 8-17 to visit her son, Major Charles Lahmon and his family. Charles is a chaplain serving his fellow soldiers, his country and the Lord. Have a great trip, Bev!

I took a poll at the church a few Sundays ago to ask how many of you are of Irish descent. It appears that every other one of you is Irish. So, Happy Saint Patrick's Day to you, and remember to wear your green.

The Bible Study class would like to thank Pastor Joe for leading our group. The book of James teaches us many things that guide us through our everyday life.

We also want to thank Katie Beran and Don Newland for teaching our Sunday School Class. Please join us, if you are able, at 9 AM each Sunday.

We will be celebrating Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ on March 31. Each time we walk into the church and sit down in the pews, we look up at the front and see the cross. We need to always be reminded of that day and what it represents.

## **Thankful for New Faces** -- *Don Newland (and Marsha Clayborne)*

Recently our church has been blessed with a number of persons who have chosen to share with us in Christian worship. This has been a continuing trend for us in our church family. We do not take the blessing of their presence lightly. Thank you to those who have, by your presence, increased our joy as we together praise the Lord! Pastor Joe has especially made it clear just how much we appreciate the presence of children among us!

## **Holy Week Worship** -- *Don Newland*

On Thursday evening, March 28, at 7 PM, we will gather at Hopewell Church for a Holy Week Agape (or Love) Feast Service. This brief "meal" (30-40 minutes) will be a quiet time in the spirit of the early traditional Christian gatherings. Many of the earliest Christian believers were not wealthy; those Christians came together in the Spirit of the risen Christ sharing in a common meal with the Holy Communion as a part of the celebration. This will be the substance of our Thursday evening Holy Week worship, which we've not held in about six years. Every member, friend, and guest will find quiet and peace in this time.



**Marriages at Hopewell Church** -- *Marsha Clayborne*

Ilene Steinmetz and Donald Bird (sister of Eleanor Doup)	June 1, 1946
Eleanor Steinmetz and Bob Jacobs	August 14, 1949
Roy Steinmetz and Beatrice Laymon 1951 (brother of Eleanor Doup)	February 11,
Beverly Armstrong and Stanley Lahmon	June 21, 1959
Vicki Riley and James Yusko (daughter of Jean Riley)	April 1, 1972
Barbara Smith and John Butler	July 15, 1978
Tim and Wendy Lahmon (son of Bev Lahmon)	June 28, 2003
Alexandria (Ali) Joris and Rex Young (Jean's great granddaughter) (Ellen's granddaughter)	May 12, 2012
Rose Lahmon and Glenn Wolfe (married at the pastor's home on Martinsburg Road)	June 24, 1944

**Say what?** -- submitted by  
*Eleanor Doup*

A country boy was walking along the highway when a state trooper pulled over, got out and approached him.

"You got any ID?" the officer asked.

The boy replied, " 'Bout what?"

**Hopewell Birthdays**

March

1 Erin Mick  
13 Karolyn Smith  
14 Joanne Purcell

(No April Birthdays)

When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

--Dr. Howard Thurman

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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

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