

# 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.*

*May-June 2013*

### **Time Marches On** -- *Pastor Joe Beran*

I recently communicated with a friend back in Wells, TX. He is the superintendent for the school district there. They are in the middle of a rather large building project. I was involved in some persuasion to purchase an old corner cafe that was closed and completely an eye sore. Making a long story short, we both realized how time marches on! The property was obtained and the old building is now just a pleasant memory.

How about you? Have you realized that time marches on? Some of us even have concluded that we are in our own personal "end times" of sort. In April, on the 21st we celebrated the time of planting and growing for our country. I also asked those in attendance to add another layer of meaning to that ceremony by choosing seeds that represent the things you want to grow during this new year...seeds such as wisdom, understanding, patience, etc. We prayed that we could visualize those qualities coming into full bloom in our life as we planted seeds and watched the growth.

I ask you to do the same thing. Plant seeds in your life. Perhaps your "garden" needs weeded, tilled, and imparted a generous dose of life-giving nutrition. The kind of nutrition we can only get thru a closer relationship with God. Of course, I strongly believe that this growth is made more complete when we do it in worship and study with brothers and sisters in Christ. Truly, God is present in your fishing boats and on the golf course, but I think we do our best worshiping when surrounded by mucks just like us.

Allow me to share these words from Galatians 6: <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

So now, hopefully, we have weeded, tilled, and are in the process of fertilizing our lives. Let us continue to be excited about Hopewell UMC! We are busy with topics that have either resurfaced or come anew through our visionary meetings. The talk of children's Sunday school class, Vacation Bible School possibilities, and reaching out to our community excites me!



We are considering forming a relationship with another area Methodist church so that we might share ideas, dreams, and efforts. By now some of you know that I am in favor of gravitating towards South Vernon UMC. They have some shaking and moving things going on that I am hoping we might fit in nicely. I look forward to exploring this vision to see where it takes us. I think it is important for us to remember that our church is a strong and worthy addition to most any effort we set our minds to.

Most of all I covet your prayers for all the plans and efforts that are taking place now. My hope...our hope...is that we are being directed by God. "Not our will, Lord, but Yours" is our prayer. The time is now for Jesus' church to shine!

Shalom,  
Pastor Joe

### **Vision Group Progress -- Bob Joseph**

Developing visionary opportunities for Hopewell UMC has been a fluid and evolving process. It began with a few people meeting in late January to generate ideas about our church's opportunities. It continues today with an ever-expanding and inclusive group of 'visionaries' ...people who care about the growth and success of this church.

The group has kept before it several guiding principles:

- \*The opportunities would be generated and evaluated in light of Hopewell UM Church's mission (as printed on page 1 of this newsletter), as well as its strengths, weaknesses, and threats.
- \*The output of the group would be in the form of recommendations to Admin Council and Pastor Joe for them to consider and act...or not.
- \*For opportunities the Council chooses for action, the Vision group (in fact, the entire congregation) needs to encourage and support the follow-through and to measure progress at intervals.

At the April 21st meeting of the Admin Council, the first three prioritized opportunities, and several supportive efforts, were endorsed for action:

- \*Improve communications among members
- \*Attract and retain children
- \*Improve financial stability

At a meeting on May 1, the Vision group will prepare recommendations for more prioritized opportunities:

- \*Improve the worship experience for members and visitors
- \*Increase the number of visitors and members
- \*Deepen the 'family feeling' to 'have hope and be well' at HUMC
- \*Increase church visibility
- \*Improve the church facility

Please visit with Bob Joseph if you have questions or want more specific information about the group and its efforts. Please feel free to come to the next meeting on May 1, 6-8 PM at Bob Evans restaurant on Coshocton Road.

### **Meet the Gourley Girls** -- *Marsha Clayborne*

**Jessie Anne**, 10, is a 4th grader at Wiggin Street School. Jessie and her grandmother picked out material and made a play dress. Jessie and her sister Leah went to Camp Otterbein close to the Hocking Hills for retreat. Her hobbies include reading, writing stories, and collecting marbles. She also

**Leah June**, 8, is a 2nd grader at Wiggin Street School. Leah's Easter dress was also made by Leah and her grandmother. Leah enjoys helping Rylanne on Sunday mornings with the offering. Her hobbies include cheerleading for Upward sports and collecting live animals. She also loves the Children's Chat at church.

**Natalie Rose**, 5, is in pre-school this year and will be in kindergarten next year at Wiggin Street School. Natalie and her grandmother also made her Easter dress for Easter Sunday. Her hobbies are t-ball, sewing, and riding her bicycle. She enjoys the Children's Chat.

Natalie, Leah, and Jessie are the daughters of Bitsi and Mickey Gourley and the granddaughters of Phyllis and Mick Gourley. They all love the Children's Chat with Katie. What a treat to see this extended family in church!

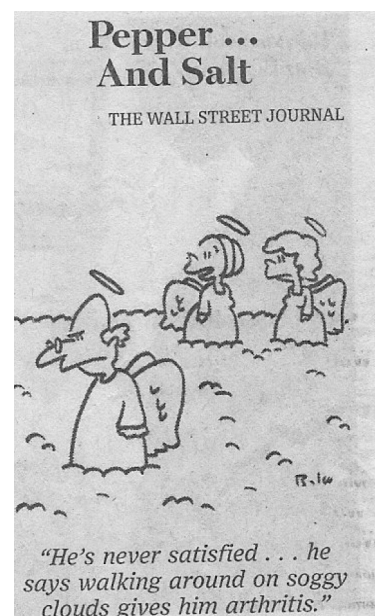
### **A Glimpse at Hopewell History** -- *from the 1976 history by Rev. Dale Epple*

A look at the records of the pastoral appointments...shows that the length of appointment became longer as time went on. In 1832 the Discipline forbade the Bishop from allowing any preacher to continue at one place for longer than 2 years in succession. But with the turn of the [20<sup>th</sup>] century, the pastors on the Gambier charge began to continue for longer periods of time.

Formerly the circuit had been made up of upwards of 8 or more churches. Within the latter years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, circuits became smaller and smaller. Where formerly there had been one or two traveling elders assigned to a circuit with their attending local preachers under them, there developed a pattern of one full time ordained pastor on a small charge with no assistants. Rented parsonages replaced sleeping places, and in their turn were replaced by church owned pastoral residences. Old or less permanent church structures were torn down and most often replaced by new, more impressive buildings.

### **Marsha's Musings** -- *Marsha Clayborne*

Did you give up something for Lent? When we put our minds to it, giving up something requires some self-adjustment and determination. After thinking about it, I decided to give up my impatience...it sounded easy to me. But being patient involves not only your family dealings, but also working with a pet dog or cat, driving through traffic, waiting at the doctor's or dentist's office for a while, and waiting in line at the grocery store and the bank; these are among many situations that require patience. I bought a 750-piece puzzle that caught my eye. The picture was colorful, and I really had not put a puzzle together in years. This must have been a test at the time to see if I could really accomplish this goal. I did finish the puzzle in less than a month but I had it in my head to get this done as fast as I could. This test has really taught me the value of being patient. Our Lord and Savior had to give up so much more of himself for us.





**Hopewell Celebrates 5th Generation Baptism**

Two-week-old Isis Natalie-Jeane Young, daughter of Alexandria and Rex Young, was baptized by Pastor Joe Beran at Hopewell UMC on March 24th. Isis joins four generations who were baptized at Hopewell.

They are (l. to r.) great-great-grandmother Jean Riley, great-grandmother Ellen Kaiser, grandmother Alyssa Joris, and mother Alexandria Young. Isis is held here by her proud father, Rex.

The faithful Hopewell congregation and other family members pledged to support Isis and her parents with prayer and example.



**He Is Risen!**

Eleanor Doup and Joan Coon made and shared this symbolic centerpiece.



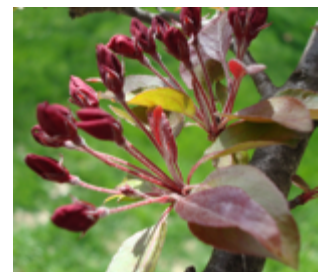
**Earth Sunday**  
Elements of life (soil, water, seeds) on the altar



Don Newland demonstrates a self-censorship technique for the Sunday School class.



**Earth Sunday**  
Spring Beauties at Hopewell UMC



**In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**



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

The UMW meeting was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at the home of Barb Butler. Eight members were present to enjoy a wonderful luncheon prepared by Barb, who gave the blessing for the meal.

Money for dues and missions was collected. Barb started our program with the scripture reading from Matthew 23: 16 - 20, "The Great Commission". Beverly Lahmon read the meditation to the group, and Barb read a prayer. Bible games were played, and Bev Lahmon and Jean Riley won the prizes. The group also told each other their favorite hymns.

Old business was discussed, and the group voted not to order any more of the Ultimate Cloths. New business was discussed, and suggestions were made on how to raise money for the church. Joan Coon suggested Pampered Chef; Ellen Kaiser mentioned a candle party or a Tastefully Simple party. Barb Butler mentioned a Tupperware party. The group decided to hold a silent auction at the annual church picnic in June. The UMW would furnish the table service, and the congregation would be asked to bring a covered dish and also items for the silent auction.

The group discussed the annual Three Rivers District UMW spring banquet meeting to be held at the Utica Methodist Church on Saturday, April 27th. The Hopewell UMW would donate orange juice, cream puffs, and donuts. Barb Butler, Bev Lahmon, Jean Riley, and Ellen Kaiser volunteered to help set up early on that morning. Our UMW will pay for lunches for the volunteers.

### A Simple Prayer

-- submitted by Joan Coon

God, please now my future see.  
Make it clear where I should be.  
Open windows, close the doors.  
Not my will, my God, but yours.

### Financial Statement as of 3/31/13 -- Barb Butler

Beginning Balance 1-01-13	\$6,031.65
Receipts	\$6,683.35
Disbursements	(\$8,796.16)
Checking Bal 3-31-13	\$3,923.84
Bldg Fund Savings and Certificates	\$20,931.52

### Donations to the Knox County Humane Society

-- Joan Coon

Thank you all for your very generous donations!

We were able to deliver the following:

- 10 bags (149 lbs.) of dog food
- 7 bags (20 lbs.) of cat food
- 3 cans of cat food
- 6 packages of dog and cat treats
- 3 rolls of paper towels
- 1 package of Wet Wipes
- 3 dog toys
- 3 cat toys
- 17 towels



Foster dog Bo Joseph with Bob & Linda's son, Marc

You have everything you need.

You have to wrestle with what God has asked you to do.

--West Ohio  
Conf. Bishop  
Gregory Palmer

**Prayer Chain -- Marsha Clayborne**

A few years ago Jeannette Smith started the prayer chain, a system for timely sharing of joys and concerns within the congregation. Here's 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 down the chain. If no one answers, that caller will leave a message on the voicemail about who needs prayer and will call the next person on the list. If you want to be added to or taken off the prayer chain list of callers, let Marsha know. God hears and answers prayers.

Marsha Clayborne	501-5841
Pastor Joe & Katie Beran	507-9017 or 507-8752
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
Bitsi Gourley	427-1270
Ellen Kaiser	392-3607

**Hopewell Birthdays**

May 19 John Wolfe  
 June 4 Sue House  
 June 20 Greg Yashnik  
 June 27 Margaret Eaton  
 June 29 Annika  
 Kanuckel-Wolfe

**Contacts:**

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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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