

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

20220 Hopewell Road

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

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

September - October 2013

Hopeful and Joyful -- *Pastor David Havens*

Hope has to be at the top of the list of life's greatest needs. Life is extremely difficult without hope. Relationships wither without hope. Hope is essential for joyful living. Could it be that many lack joy because they have no hope of a better day?

Dr. McNair Wilson, the famous cardiologist, remarked in his autobiography, Doctor's Progress, "Hope is the medicine I use more than any other." Years ago Dr.

Harold Wolff, professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College and associate professor of psychiatry, said, "Hope, like faith and a purpose in life, is medicinal. This is not a statement of belief, but a conclusion proved by meticulously-controlled scientific experiment." [quoted in Hope For The Day, p. 253]

Should it surprise us that science confirms what the Bible has declared for centuries? "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." (Proverbs 13:12 NRSV)

Everyone needs hope. Everyone wants and needs joy. Two common needs met in one person, Jesus Christ our LORD! In Him there is no false hope that leaves a person in a state of delusion and no artificial joy that quickly fades away once pleasure has subsided.

What a blessing to be part of a hopeful (hope filled) and joyful (joy filled) congregation! Hopewell UMC: A place to find hope and be well! All because of Jesus Christ who gives to all who trust Him as their one and only Savior and LORD, a living, sure, certain, and steadfast hope for this life and for all eternity through His atoning death for our sins on the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead, and who fills all believing hearts with His joy which is the believer's strength!

(1 Peter 1:3-9 NKJV) "[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the

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resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, [5] who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [6] In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved (distressed) by various trials, [7] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, [8] whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, [9] receiving the end of your faith --- the salvation of souls."

Just think of what we have to offer people when we offer them Jesus Christ our LORD!

Trustees Report -- *Cary Purcell, Head Trustee*

In the coming weeks, I will be looking into the level of interest and participation in a Fall Church Clean-Up event. The date will most likely be a Saturday or Sunday in October. If we have inclement weather we will focus on the interior. For those new to the event, the scope of projects is far and wide from dusting to scraping and painting. Most projects and priorities will be identified in advance, and many of the necessary tools and ladders will be supplied, but all contributions and cleaning supplies are welcome. We also try to incorporate some light food fare into the event. More later.

Regarding the continued, but yet preliminary, efforts to secure some land for parking on the north side of Hopewell Road, the process drags on. What was initially to be resolved in late 2012 will likely stretch into 2014. An email from one of the lawyers involved in the bankruptcy engulfing the property contained the following: "the Clemens property litigation currently has cross motions for SJ [Summary Judgment] pending, which should be ruled on in August [no ruling as of yet]. After that it will be another 90-120 days before sale and then some additional time while the beneficiaries of the two trusts, which will own the property, decide what they want to do. And so it goes! I will keep you all posted.

United Methodist Women Report -- *Marsha Clayborne, UMW Secretary/Treasurer*

The UMW met at the home of Barb Butler on Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Nine members and one guest were present. Barb made a delicious lunch and dessert for the group and wanted to test some new recipes for the church cookbook. The blessing was given by Barb. When the meal was finished, everyone approved of the new recipes. Barb started the program with a devotional reading called "A Lesson from a Hummingbird," followed by a prayer. The minutes and treasurer's report were given along with the dues and missions funds collected. Marsha Clayborne read a card from Barb, thanking the UMW for Bibles distributed by the Gideons in memory of her brother, Ralph Smith, Jr. Games were played, and Pastor David Havens won the first prize; Jean Riley won the second one. Old business was discussed on the new church cookbook. The group decided to put the fundraiser on hold until more information and the cost of publishing was collected. Carol Gore had been a guest of the Hopewell UMW several times. Barb asked her if she would like to join the group. Her mother, Dorthea Auker, had been a long time member in the past. Carol accepted the invitation, and we welcomed her to the UMW. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12th, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Marsha Clayborne.

UMW Coat Drive -- Marsha Clayborne

Cold weather (shudder the thought) is just around the corner. Starting in September, the UMW will collect new and gently used winter jackets and coats for Interchurch Social Services. Coats and jackets for all ages are needed. You can mark 'coat drive' on your donated items and put them in the back of the church. Thanks for helping others who are less fortunate.

Meet the Lawhon Family -- Marsha Clayborne

On Beckholt Road down the hill and to the east of Hopewell Church lives the Lawhon family. The grandparents, Bill and Bonnie Lawhon and Bonnie's mother, Jean Campbell, live on the first place to the left. Across the road from Bill and Bonnie lives Bill's sister, Donna Sinks. Then at the next place live the Lawhon children and their parents, Sara Lawhon and Ryan Rupp. Sara and Ryan have five children beginning with Erin as the oldest. Erin attends Mount Vernon High School and is in the 10th grade. Seth is the oldest son, an 8th grader, and is home-schooled. Gina attends the Wiggin Street School and is in the 5th grade. Pete also attends the Wiggin Street School and is in the 2nd grade. Adam is the youngest at 16 months and is the apple of everyone's eye. His smile is as wide as it can be and lights up a room completely. The children are active at church, taking turns at lighting of the candles or taking up the offering. We welcome the Lawhons to Hopewell!

Financial Statement as of 8/31/13 -- Barb Butler

Beginning Balance 6/30/13	\$3,283.12
Receipts (July and August)	\$8,514.53
Disbursements (July and August)	(\$4,417.85)
Balance as of 8/31/13	\$7,379.80

Bldg Fund Savings / Certificates \$21,086.01

Financial Note: Good News!! Weekly offerings showed an increase for the months of July and August. Total also includes memorial contributions and the proceeds of the Tastefully Simple Party hosted by Brad, Joan and Eleanor, which brought in an additional \$391.00.

I've often thought...

...what if I could be as enthusiastic in my faith and testimony for Jesus Christ as I am in cheering unabashedly for my favorite football team! Why do I hold back my emotions for Him, but leave them all at the stadium for a team of boys playing a game on grass? Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.

Thinking of Others

An old man, traveling a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray.
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
For the sullen stream held no fears for him.
But he turned when he reached the other side
And builded a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"

The builder raised his old, gray head,
"Good friend, on the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way.
This stream, which has been as naught to me,
To that fair-headed boy may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him"
--Selected.

Vision Update -- Bob Joseph

Nineteen (19!) Visionaries met at Bob and Linda Joseph's Apple Valley home for a cookout on July 30. The meeting focus was how to draw people to, and retain them at, Hopewell UMC. This is in keeping with "The Great Commission" to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18)...including our neighbors in the community around Hopewell. Ideas included the following:

- Draw up 2-3 letters to send to individuals and families.
- Share the church history with those in the neighborhood, building the sense of community. Tell the story of HUMC, past and present.
- Prepare a display for the October charge conference that provides highlights of HUMC programs [Bob and Linda will do this]. Gather ideas from that conference for our use.
- Continue the newsletter; make it more widely available.
- Pray, not passively, but followed up by our actions.
- Engage children in the service, including a children's day. Get them singing, speaking.
 - Their presence and vibrance have been a source of inspiration to adults, too.
 - They're connecting with and inviting their friends.
 - They're well-behaved and paying attention to what's going on, including the sermon message.
 - Results of a parent survey suggest holding Sunday School for kids, but not during the worship service. Bitsi/Sue Stanton/Karen could teach. Need teaching materials.
 - Start a group to plan the Children's ministry.
 - Perhaps establish a nursery during the worship service.
 - We're all influencing our kids/grandkids with our presence.
- Keep a regular class of adult Sunday School. Is there going to be a Bible study?
- Continue to use nametags for the benefit of all (regulars and visitors) who are attending.

Bob shared thoughts from Chris Cordle, a friend with family ties to HUMC:

What does it take to make a church vibrant? If you knew and could bottle it you would be rich and famous. As I think about that I suppose church should represent a place where:

Important, special, good things are the constant focus.

You are welcomed and feel wanted, useful, and important.

Sin is acknowledged but sinners are forgiven by grace.

You do things that are important.

You feel the support of the people of the church, past and present.

You can express and share the joys your blessings without generating envy, and the sadness and pain of sins without generating judgment.

The physical beauty and riches of the church are a source of joy and pride for all.

Circumstances may dictate that you walk slowly, but you never walk backwards.

All show respect for the fact that important, eternal things are happening, that this place is not like home, or the office, or school, or the fair, and that personal behaviors, tone, dress, attitude, and focus should reflect the fact that church time is your time with a God who wants only the best for you but needs you to listen for, as Steve Brown puts it, "the soft sound of sandaled feet."

Vision Team Meeting -- Sep 26

The Vision Team will meet at 6 PM on Sep 26 at Bob Evans Restaurant. The focus of the discussion will be 'Improving the worship experience.' All are invited to attend.



Kroger Rewards Program -- Linda Joseph and Barb Butler

Do you shop for food at Kroger and use a Kroger Rewards card? If you do, you can now be a part of a fundraiser program for Hopewell United Methodist Church. Kroger has assigned to Hopewell UMC a non-profit organization (NPO) number (**91901**) and provided these instructions for registering on-line in their Community Rewards Program:

- *It's simple to register online at krogercommunityrewards.com*
- *Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.*
 - *If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, you may obtain one at the customer service desk at any Kroger.*
- *Click on Sign In/Register*
- *If you are a new on-line customer (and most people are), you must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.*
- *Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address, creating a password, and agreeing to the terms and conditions.*
- *You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.*
- *Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.*
- *Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.*
- *Update or confirm your information.*
- *Enter NPO number [**91901**], select organization from list and click on 'confirm.'*
- *To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.*
- *REMEMBER, your purchases will not count for your group until you register your card.*
 - *Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.*
- *You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.*

If you do not have on-line access, we can create your account and enter your card for you. See Linda Joseph or Barb Butler for information.

Administrative Council President's Message -- Don Russell

If there was a question about God's presence and His response to prayers from His church, one needs only look at the composition and numbers of parishioners currently attending Hopewell U.M.C.

For many years, we were essentially the same attendees, and unfortunately, our numbers were decreasing because of several members passing on to their heavenly home.

Today, our worshippers are more numerous, and are much more diverse, i.e., the composition includes younger children, older children, younger adults, older adults, females and males—a very healthy cross-section of people, who are ALL well-endowed with a variety of God given gifts. With this great gift from God, we all, whether members or not, need to embrace each other in Christian love to ensure that EVERYONE who worships with us feels "at home" at Hopewell and has an opportunity, regardless of age or gender, to contribute to the mission of our church, "To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ and to minister to the needs of others in His name", by exercising their talents, whether through music, committee service, assisting with the worship service, etc.

As Pastor Dave reminds us, we must be prayerful in continuing to enlist God's help and support in making our church even more vibrant in the future.

Children's Sunday School Starts Sep 8

Beginning Sunday, September 8, children are invited to attend Sunday School at 9 AM. Singing, Bible verse memorizing and Bible stories will be led by volunteers, including Bitsi Gourley, Sue Stanton and Karen Havens. Let them know if your child would like to attend or if you would be willing to work with the class.

Community Get-together -- Oct 12

The Bill Lawhon and his family are inviting their neighbors, including Hopewell church, for food and fun at their home at 7502 Beckholt Road. Bill says the plan is to gather at 1 PM and eat about 3 PM. The Lawhons will provide the grilled food. If you plan to attend, please bring a covered dish, a folding chair and (optional) a fishing pole. There's a pond for fishing and trails for hiking.

A History Moment: The United Methodist Church

In 1939 one of the most far-reaching steps was taken by the denomination of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Northern church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South and Methodist Protestant Church merged into one united church once again. These three splinter groups having been split first by the question of episcopal (bishop) appointment, and then by the slavery issue. These three churches became known as the Methodist Church. And from that time onwards, Hopewell bore the name of Methodist Church, Episcopal having been dropped as a result of the merger. [from Hopewell History by Rev. Dale Epple, 1976]

In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church, creating today's United Methodist Church.

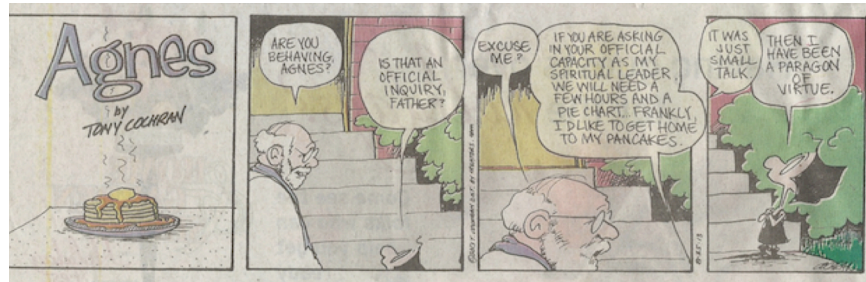
As of 2009, worldwide membership was about 12 million: 7.7 million in the United States and Canada, and 4.4 million in Africa, Asia and Europe.

The Great Commission -- Matthew 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Please pray for

- our school children, their teachers and the school staff.
- our men and women in uniform and their families.
- all persons on our prayer list and prayer chain.
- Hopewell United Methodist Church and Pastor David.
- our cranky and troubled world.
- the unspoken concerns of us all.



Social Media Reminder: If you have a Facebook account, be sure to 'friend' Hopewell United Methodist Church. If you have an e-mail account, please contact rjoseph4@columbus.rr.com to receive the newsletter electronically.

Thank You...

Thank you for the gracious and special welcome following the July 14th worship service! Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement, gifts, cards, notes and comments; for the beautiful and delicious cake decorated with the cross, the tasty rolls, nuts and other refreshments. We appreciate very much the warm and friendly spirit in which you have welcomed us.

Gratefully with love and prayers
David and Karen



...to Don & Irma Newland for buying and donating two candlelighters/extinguishers --and a year's supply of candles for the altar.

...to the youth who so willingly and eagerly volunteer to help with the Sunday worship service.

...to the many faithful contributors to this newsletter.

September and October Birthdays

Sept 4	Natalie Gourley	Sep 22	Cary Purcell
5	Virginia Skinner	24	Eleanor Doup
7	Corby Coon	24	Marsha Clayborne
14	Ron Skinner		
15	Jessica Hartney	Oct 8	Ellie Purcell
15	Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe	17	Pete Lawhon
18	Jean Riley	18	Bev Lahmon
18	Bob Kaiser	19	Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
		21	Aubrey Purcell



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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