

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.*

March-April 2014

Moving Toward Lent – *Pastor Don Newland*

Patience. Certainly the Old Testament character of Job has been largely misunderstood by some who have referred to him with the description "the patience of Job." On the contrary, Job felt God had dealt with him unjustly; he became angry with God and even angrier toward his "friends." In fact, Job was not a patient man, and, under his circumstance, how would he have been expected to be a patient soul? He wanted answers; he needed relief from his intolerable circumstance. Job demanded explanation; he longed to be "restored" in the sight of both man and God.



This winter in central Ohio has been a major challenge for those who would be patient! We have had near record cold, over 50 inches of snow, ice, sleet, flooding, constant weather alerts. We have, however, had it better than other areas of our nation, and certainly better than various nation/states around the world.

I have never been known for my patience although the inevitable process of aging has helped me in this respect. I no longer expect the impossible out of life, from others or myself. I now expect only the near impossible!!

What I am, at this time, prayerfully requesting of you is that you be as patient as possible (and supportive as possible) during this season of harsh winter. We have missed two Sundays of worship, one because of weather (January 26), one because of furnace problems (February 23). These issues disturb "impatient Don" much too much, however...winter will end, spring is coming, and Hope is on the way (for God in Christ is always Hope).

Finally, the Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5, just a few days away. Daylight Savings Time and "Spring forward" are on the near horizon, March 9. So, please, might each of us have both faith and patience with/in one another as those who joined in Christ are called to do! In closing, here are some brief devotional "patience readings":

Galatians 5:22/ Ephesians 4 1-3/ Colossians. 3:12, 13.

Hope to see you in worship!

Your Input Counts – *Don Russell, Administrative Council Chairperson*

During the time that we await the appointment of a permanent pastor, our Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is taking on the challenge of better defining the characteristics, which we, at HUMC, feel best describe the qualities of a new pastor. In order to convey these needs to the District Superintendent, we are developing a survey that will be sent to each and every congregant so that everyone's views are known. Without your thoughtful input, we would only be guessing in this most important decision-making process; so please convey your thoughts, hopes, and desires so that we may better assist our District Superintendent in this difficult and important task.

May the Light of the Lord shine on you and yours!

Yours in Christ,
Don Russell

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

The UMW has been fortunate not to meet in January and February because of the long, cold and snowy winter. Our next meeting will be at the home of Barb Butler on Tuesday, March 11.

One of our UMW members, Virginia Skinner, fell and broke her hip Saturday, February 15. We send her our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Last year the UMW contributed a total of \$300 for missions. We hope to continue helping others in need.

"The Upper Room" booklets, located on the side table when you enter the church, are supplied by the UMW. Please feel free to take one. Have a wonderful Spring!

Ultimate Cloth Sale

To purchase Ultimate Cloths, contact Marsh Clayborne or any member of the UMW. The cloths are \$6 or 2 for \$10. They make nice gifts and basically do all the cleaning for you. They can be used for your home, car, or any job that needs to be done. They can be washed in the washing machine, used over and over again, and have a 5-year guarantee.

Financial Statement -- *Barb Butler, Treasurer*

Beginning Balance December 31, 2013	\$ 12,695.96
Receipts (Jan, Feb 2014)	\$ 3,821.55
Disbursements (Jan, Feb 2014)	\$ (2,516.41)
Balance as of February 28, 2014	\$14,001.10

Financial Note: Lower receipts reflect the effects of no church on Jan 26 (weather conditions) and Feb 23 (furnace failure).

Church Sign Update – *Barb Butler*

The new church sign has arrived. Now we need "ole man winter" to move on so that it can be erected. Hopefully it can be complete by Memorial Day. The sign is being donated in memory of Ralph (Butch) Smith by family and friends.

Hopewell UMC Pays 100% Apportionments (Again) in 2013

Thank you for fulfilling your commitment to paying your shared ministry funds in full in 2013. Programs and ministries continue to be blessed because of your generosity and commitment. Thank you again for making a difference in East Ohio and the world.

Jessica Vargo

3 Rivers Conference Treasurer

Pastor-Parish Relations Report – Barb Butler, PPR Chair

The PPR Committee and Don Newland met on Feb 2 to discuss filling the pulpit during this interim period. Don, with help from other leaders in our church, has graciously offered to serve during this period. Don will also look to other retired pastors in this area to fill in. When talking to Jim Humphrey, District Superintendent, he related that the interim period would probably be until July 1. He does not have any available options at this time.

The committee (with council approval) is in the process of preparing a survey to be completed by the congregation. Hopefully this survey will help the committee meet the pastoral needs and desires for our congregation.

A Hopewell History Moment -- from the 1976 history by Rev. Dale Epple

From the 1832 edition of the Methodist Discipline we find the description of the early life of the Hopewell Society. "A society is no other than a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation."

Each society was divided into groups called classes of about 12 members each. One of these members, the "Leader," was responsible to meet each one in his class once a week, at least, to inquire how their souls prospered; to advise, reprove, comfort, exhort as occasion might require; to receive their offerings to support the pastor, the church, and the poor. Each week he would meet the pastor and the stewards of the church and report on his members that need special pastoral attention and pat to the stewards his receipts of the week. The classes would meet weekly with their leaders, with or without the pastor being present. And they would pray, examine, and aid one another to live a more perfect Christian life. Anyone wanting to become a member of a society needed "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins." Persons joining a society had to become a member of a class as a probationer for six months minimum unless formerly a member of an "orthodox" church, that is of a recognized denominational body. Those transferring from another denomination were admitted upon examination by the Pastor. Members who did not meet the requirements of regular attendance at public worship, Preaching services, The Lord's Supper, family and private prayer, Bible study, and fasting and abstinence, as evidence of their desire of salvation, could be removed.

Being a Methodist was a serious business to the church and to the members.



"Sock-It-to-Them" – Linda Joseph

The following items, generously donated by the Hopewell congregation, were delivered to Interchurch Social Services on a cold winter day in early February:

- socks - 49 pair
- gloves - 22 pair
- stocking caps - 14
- scarves - 3

Items that have been donated since then will be delivered to ISS soon while there's still a need. A warm "Thanks" to all donors.



Church Council Meeting Report – Bob Joseph, Acting Secretary

Don Russell called to order nine members of Church Council on a snowy Sunday, Feb 9. Committee highlights include the following:

Finance (Barb Butler): The 2013 summary included several 'positives'...

Receipts of \$36,582.59 exceeded expenses of \$29,918.28.

Year-end checking balance (\$12,695) is about twice the beginning balance.

\$381 was collected in the coin jar last year for missions.

Memorial contributions will fund purchase of a new church sign.

Pastor-Parish Relations (Barb Butler):

Barb will be conducting a congregation survey to understand our thoughts and ideas about the state of the church and its needs. Survey results will be shared with the District Superintendent to support a ministerial appointment, which will likely occur by July. Don Newland has contacted several retired pastors for preaching support in the interim.

Trustees (Bill Lawhon for Cary Purcell):

Acting on insurer Mennonite Mutual's recommendations, John Wolfe donated and installed two smoke detectors and will donate two fire extinguishers. Cary continues to work toward obtaining land from the adjacent farm. Don Newland distributed a calendar of events and activities; Bill Lawhon will be the main contact for updates.

Other: Vision Team will meet in the next month to review progress and generate new ideas. Linda Joseph is working on an updated photo directory.

Please pray for

- persons on our prayer list and prayer chain.
- persons in our community who are living with fear, discomfort, and disease.
- our men and women in uniform and their families.
- Hopewell United Methodist Church and our church neighbors.
- our nation and our government leaders.
- our local schools, teachers, staff, and students.
- the unspoken hurts, needs and concerns of us all.
- our own hearts as we prepare for Easter.

March and April Birthdays

Mar 13 Karolyn Smith

Mar 14 Joanne Purcell

Apr 2 Adam Lawhon

Apr 3 Kyler Beauchamp



Above/above right – HUMC celebrated Don Newland's Birthday on Feb 2.



Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

– 1 JOHN 3:18 NV

Right – Congratulations to Bill and Bonnie Lawhon on their 50th anniversary in Feb.



**Hopewell United Methodist Church
Administrative Council
2014**

Council Chairperson - Don Russell
Lay Leader - Ellen Kaiser

Nominations:

Jean Riley (1)
Bob Joseph (2)
Don Newland (1)
Joanne Purcell (2)

Pastor-Parish:

Barb Butler, chairperson (2)
Bev Lahmon (1)
Linda Joseph (3)
Don Russell (2)
Jean Riley (1)
Ellen Kaiser, ex-officio

Trustees:

Cary Purcell, chairperson (2)
John Wolfe (3)
Amy Yashnyk (2)
Mickey Gourley (3)
Bill Lawhon (3)

Worship:

Irma Newland
Marsha Clayborne
Donna Lybarger
Bob Joseph
John Wolfe

Stewardship and Finance

Barb Butler, Treasurer
Don Russell
Eleanor Doup, Audit
Greg Yashnyk
One person from Trustees

Christian Education

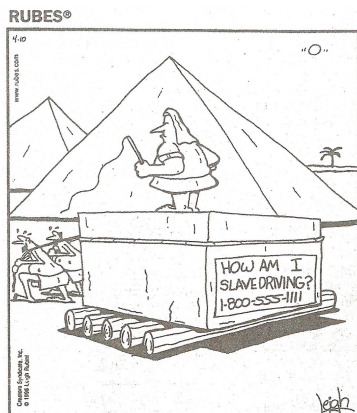
Bitsi Gourley
Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
Sara Lawhon

Membership and Evangelism

Irma Newland
Mary Smith
Karolyn Smith
Don Newland
Bill Lawhon
Bob Joseph

Lay Delegate to Conference

Linda Joseph
Bill Lawhon, alternate



Follow Hopewell UMC...

...on the Web:

www.mvhopewellumc.org

(Thanks to Ryan Rupp for setting up this new site, which we can use to reach out to the community.)

...on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon



Books of the New Testament



Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

Thessalonians

Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

Peter

Jude

Revelation