

# 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.*

*July – August 2014*

### **Pastor's Ponderings** – Rev. Don Newland

When, about 35 weeks ago, our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Humphrey, asked me (and our Pastor-Parish Committee) if we could possibly "fill in" until a pastoral appointment could be made, we bravely said "Sure, we will try...no, we can do it." What, on Earth, were we thinking? Rev. Jim had made it clear that it would probably be after January 1 before he could make an appointment because "I just don't have anyone to send, no one in mind at this time."



So, there we were with an 80-year-old sub and what would be a congregation that would meet this unusual challenge by saying "Together we can do this thing!" And, we have done that thing. Over the months our average attendance has been about 29 souls - a low of 20-22 (just a couple or three Sundays) and high attendance of 32-41 on several Sundays. Our Easter worship attendance proved to be the best that many of us can remember, and Easter Day was a wonderful time for our church family.

Personally this has been a unique and rewarding time for me; after all, I had not been in a local church leadership position, teaching, preaching and more for nearly 15 years. I could do as little or as much as I could, but my preference has always been to do my best. And working with each of you some really good things have happened. I could get

*...continued on p.2*

### **Welcome to Pastor Lee and Audra Cubie** – Barb Butler



Please extend a warm Hopewell welcome to Rev. Lee Cubie, who is appointed as pastor of Hopewell and South Vernon United Methodist churches as of July 1, and to his wife Audra Cubie.

**NOTE New Times as of July 6:  
Sunday School – 8:30 AM  
Worship Service – 9:30 AM**

### **Follow Hopewell UMC...**

...on the Web:

[www.mvhopewellumc.org](http://www.mvhopewellumc.org)

...on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Hopewell](http://www.facebook.com/Hopewell)

[UMCMtVernon](#)

into many accomplishments, but that is not my purpose here; my purpose is to say that none of these excellent steps forward could have happened without the motivation, help and assistance of each of you. I simply cannot get into names and specifics because I know that I will omit the good works which some of you have done. You may wish, however, to reflect on these nearly three dozen weeks and thank someone and receive thanks for the way we have all "pulled together."

Well, our time in this journey is soon coming to a close. Pastor Lee Cubie and his wife Audra will be with us in a short time, and we will be in a new Pastoral Charge relationship with South Vernon Church. So, officially, I am "signing off." Thanks to each of you, and thanks to Irma, too! And God bless!

I am yours in Jesus Christ,  
Donald Newland

### **Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Report** – Barb Butler, chair

The PPR Committee thanks Don Newland for his great leadership and ministry to the Hopewell UMC family over the past eight months. With his strong leadership, the church has continued to grow.

Sunday, June 29 is scheduled to be Don's last Sunday to preach. Don's request is to fill the church on his last Sunday. Can we do it? Why not! Let's show Don just how much we appreciated his help.

**Beginning Sunday, July 6, Sunday School starts at 8:30 and Worship Service starts at 9:30 AM.**

Please welcome Rev. Lee and Audra Cubie and pray for the transition ahead and our ministry together.

### **Financial Statement** -- Barb Butler, Treasurer 1/1/2014 – 6/21/2014

#### Checking Account

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Beginning balance 1/1/2014           | \$12,695.96   |
| Receipts                             | \$20,967.93   |
| Disbursements                        | (\$11,958.68) |
| Checking Balance 6/21/2014           | \$21,705.21   |
| <u>Bldg Fund Saving/certificates</u> | \$22,182.15   |

Financial Note: Hopewell UMC has been fortunate for the past 8 months to have a minister and leader who did not wish to collect any compensation. Don Newland and other leaders in our church have graciously given of their time. This kindness has helped to build a cushion in the church treasury. Hopefully, with the grace of God and the generosity of our church family, this cushion can be maintained.

### **A Hopewell History Moment** – an excerpt from the 1976 Hopewell History by Rev. Dale Epple

Fortunately history is a living anthology. Changes, such as those in District name from Mt. Vernon District to Mansfield in 1912 and back again to Mt. Vernon District in 1970 [Today HUMC is part of Three Rivers District], or such as those in the Conference from the North East Ohio to the East Ohio in 1968, and the name from Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church to the Hopewell United Methodist Church in 1968 resulting from the merger again of historically parallel denominations into one larger church, are and only should be incidental to the real history of a church. This is the real life of the church, and the real work of the Spirit. Who can tell what impact the Society of Methodists located in Pleasant Township has had upon the lives of the members, the probationers, the Baptized humanity that has passed under the hands of 93 [now 109] pastors in succession? Nor can anyone tell what indelible mark was made upon the ministries of those who labored as the shepherds and servants of those looking for Holier living.

[See the complete 1976 history at <http://mvhopewellumc.org/who-we-are/history/>]

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

The UMW met at the Alcove restaurant for lunch on May 15. There were seven members present. Barb Butler said the pre-luncheon prayer and conducted the meeting. Dues and Missions along with the secretary/treasurer's report were read. The group discussed "Women's Sunday" for May 25th with participation from the women and children for worship service. Among old business was a report on the successful sale of the Ultimate Cloths. The group also planned the church picnic, to be hosted by UMW on Thursday, June 12, at the shelter house in Gambier. The women planned to provide the table service and beverages. Everyone was invited to come and to bring items for the silent auction.

### UMW Church Picnic -- Marsha Clayborne

The church picnic was held at the Gambier Shelter House. Twelve people attended to enjoy the food, fellowship, and fun. Don Newland led the group in prayer. Bob Joseph volunteered to be the auctioneer for the remaining silent auction items. Thanks to everyone who made the event possible to raise \$100.00 for Hopewell Church. A big thank you to each of you who made a generous donation. See you at next year's picnic.



### "SAY A PRAYER"

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

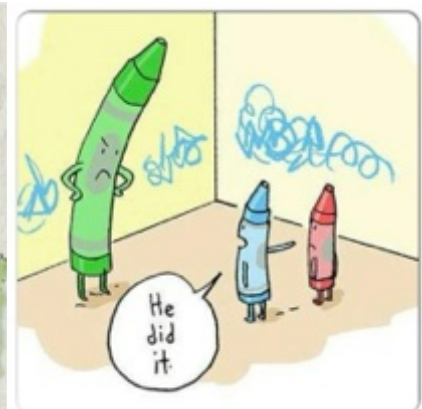
"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

### God Qualifies Us -- From MyBible.com

Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper, David had an affair, Noah got drunk, Jonah ran from God, Paul was a murderer, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sarah was impatient, Elijah was depressed, Moses stuttered, Zaccheus was short, Abraham was old, and Lazarus was dead...

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the CALLED!



**Our Lord's Prayer** – *submitted by Linda Joseph*

Here is a compilation of the meanings to the various phrases of our Lord's Prayer, as interpreted by members of Better Worlders, Livonia, Mich.:

**Our Father:** our Creator, Guide, Discipliner, Shepherd

**Who art in heaven:** which is in happiness, joy, love; who art in us; the God-Spirit within.

**Hallowed be thy name:** full of Good; God, greatness, holiness.

**Thy kingdom come:** humility come to me; to have God's goodness come near.

**Thy will be done:** I shall be God's goodness, love, life, praise, and patience; I shall do his work.

**On earth as it is in heaven:** outside of us as it is in our minds.

**Give us this day our daily bread:** give us each day new and wise ideas; nourish us daily with your love and wisdom.

**And forgive our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors:** forgive us for not living our love as we also forgive those who don't live their love toward us.

**And lead us not in temptation:** don't forget our discipline; teach us to overcome.

**But deliver us from evil:** change our thoughts from evil to good; correct us; deliver us from that which is wrong.

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever:** yours is the joy, wholeness, and power forever.

**Amen:** I believe it; I pray for it; I have peace within and without.

**To Benefit Hopewell's Treasury...**

...please renew your annual membership in the Kroger Community Rewards by updating at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) using the organization number 91901. or call Linda Joseph (740-326-6272) or Barb Butler (740-398-9868). Since the program's inception at HUMC last year, Kroger has added **\$102.99** to the treasury.

**Please pray for**

- our country, as we celebrate the 238<sup>th</sup> birthday of this 'one nation under God.'
- the world's many refugees who are fleeing terrorism and oppression.
- the United Methodist churches in East Ohio Conference and Three Rivers District.
- our men and women in uniform and their families.
- our individual strength, and collective strength as a congregation, to 'make a world of difference.'
- Pastor Lee and Audra Cubie and for the new Pastoral Charge of Hopewell and South Vernon.
- the silent hurts, needs and concerns that all of us bear.

**Birthdays**

**July**

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Mickey Gourley | 2  |
| Ellen Kaiser   | 2  |
| Ryan Rupp      | 21 |
| Mike Stevens   | 24 |
| Mary Stevens   | 28 |
| Barb Butler    | 29 |

**August**

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Mick Gourley, Sr. | 1  |
| Gina Lawhon       | 15 |
| Linda Joseph      | 16 |
| Irma Newland      | 18 |
| Bonnie Lawhon     | 19 |
| Mary Smith        | 27 |
| Wayne Clayborne   | 27 |
| Mike Dumbaugh     | 29 |
| Bill Lawhon       | 30 |
| Seth Lawhon       | 31 |

### **East Ohio Annual Conference Meeting Report – Linda Joseph**

The East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church met at Lakeside during June 16 – 19. Although I had planned to attend, we notified DS Jim Humphrey and others that we needed to cancel due to the unexpected death of, and services for, our close friend, Ray Miller.

However, information from the conference, including program details, speakers and worship services, and resolutions as acted upon by delegates, is available on the Web at <http://www.eocumc.com/eoac14>.

Following are the Resolutions, and the voting outcome, in condensed form:

2014-01 Promoting Justice and Peace in the Holy Land through Divestment and Boycott. *Resolution failed.*

2014-02 Stem the Tide of Violence - Takes a stand against violence and urges daily prayer for peace and healing, support local organizations which help children and youth gain esteem and the values of love, respect, honor, and community. *Resolution adopted.*

2014-03 National Domestic Violence Awareness - Encourages all churches in EOC to designate a day in October to bring awareness about domestic violence to congregation. *Resolution adopted.*

2014-04 Gay/Lesbian Inclusion and Same Gender Weddings -- It is our opinion that a United Methodist pastor should be able to officiate at any legal wedding. *Resolution was tabled.*

2014-05 We Will Not Condone Violence in Words or Deeds -- Every church and member of EOC be encouraged to speak out against violence in their local communities against LGBT people and other marginalized communities. *Resolution as amended was adopted.*

2014-06 Call to Advocate for the Enforcement of the Human Trafficking Laws in Ohio -- Asks conference secretary to send copy of this resolution to both houses of Ohio government, the governor and the attorney general. *Resolution as amended was adopted.*

### **Vision Team – Bob Joseph**

Thirteen members of the Vision team met on May 14 at Allison’s Finer Diner. We opened with prayer and dinner, interspersed with discussion about the Vision Opportunities and ‘yoking’ with South Vernon UMC. **(Please contact Bob for more complete notes. Next meeting will be August 20.)**

To Bill Lawhon’s idea (“Adding 10-15 active families would improve HUMC’s financial stability”), several members suggested active and passive ways to accomplish this:

Active:

Call on families in the HUMC vicinity.

Be constantly aware of recent real estate sales, and welcome the new neighbors.

Invite HUMC neighbors to special events (e.g., concerts, special services, “Guest Sunday”, “Blessing of the Animals” and other celebrations)

Initiate (and publicize) Bible study. Bible study and UMW can be ports of entry for members.

Passive:

Post road signs which direct visitors to the church.

Post church information in local media: Apple Valley “Cider Press”; KnoxWays 2015; Knox Chamber of Commerce Web site; HUMC Web page and Facebook page

Share newsletters more widely in the neighborhood.

Publicize activities of the church.

### “Yoking” with South Vernon UMC

The term “yoking” has been used to describe the soon-to-be connection with South Vernon. Several present expressed a concern about Hopewell maintaining its own identity. Don Newland suggested a more apt term would be “pastoral charge” where we are sharing the services of a minister. Barb Butler noted that South Vernon is receptive to working together on projects.