

# 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, 2015*

### **Pastor's Ponderings** – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

#### **Work**

*Deuteronomy 5:11 "You shall not take the name of your Lord God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."*

We live in a time when we seem to have lost the meaning of work. We have lost the meaning in multiple ways.

First, we have lost the idea of a work ethic, that is, that we must earn

what we need or desire—they are not ours because the world owes us. So that Paul goes so far as to say, "If any one will not work, let him not eat." (2 Thess. 3:10)

Second, we have lost the meaning of work when we think of it as a job for earning money and not as a vocation through which we express ourselves into the world. As Christians, that expression is a response of thankfulness to God, for the vocation of being his stewards in his creation. As Christians, it is an expression of awe as we understand the magnitude of God's grace in our lives—grace not only in the forgiveness of sins, but in understanding that God gave us everything that is good in our lives.

Thirdly, we have lost the meaning of work when we think of it as just an individual pursuit. Work is not just for our benefit; it is for the benefit of the community. As Paul writes, "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need." (*Eph. 4:28*) The purpose of work is to give expression to the love of God through love for the neighbor. George Bernard Shaw captures the idea that work is for the community in a little piece entitled, "A Splendid Torch." He writes,

"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

"I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment,



and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.” (A Splendid Torch)

This reminds me of Paul when he writes,

“Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, ‘At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.’ Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as imposters, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

“Our mouth is open to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return—I speak as to children—widen your hearts also. (*2 Corinthians 6:1-13*)

Paul, like Jesus, was truly “A Splendid Torch” for the gospel of God. As he wrote, “I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith...”

Fourthly, we have lost the meaning of work when we value our leisure time more than being in the vocation God has called us to. This value of leisure is captured in our understanding of salvation. We, as Protestants, have been accused of “cheap grace,” as if after we have accepted the salvation of our Lord we can sit back and enjoy the ride. This comes about through our emphasis on salvation by grace through faith. This is true but at times, it has been a stumbling block in our churches. James speaks of this when he writes, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” And later when he writes, “But some will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.” He also writes to show what kind of work he is talking about, “What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith still save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith without works is dead.”

Finally, to combine these points in our daily lives I would like to point out, the command to not take the name of the LORD in vain. This is not a proscription against saying “Jesus Christ” lightly; it is a proscription against the idea that we can rest on the work of Jesus Christ and not be truly engaged with the Holy Spirit in the work of the church. There are many scriptures that warn us of this attitude, from the parable of the talents to Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, where we are encouraged to build on the work of Jesus and warned about being a Christian who does not take up the work of the gospel. This work is multifaceted dealing with both personal righteousness and societal righteousness as expressed through working for justice in our world.

Not only do we find this in our scriptures, it is found in our membership formulas in our hymnal. There we read this oath for those seeking to join the United Methodist Church or

seeking to transfer membership into a local congregation. There we swear before God and the local congregation, "As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?" We then answer, "**I will.**" "As members of this local congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service?" We answer, "**I will.**" This is reinforced when the congregation is reminded of their oath before God when they respond to the call, "Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. And the congregation responds, "**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**"

In parting I would like to ask you how have you expressed your faith today? What work can you point to and say, "I did that because I believe that God called me to love my neighbor as myself?" And, how did you glorify God today?

### UMW Report - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The Alcove was the meeting place for the UMW on Wednesday, May 13. Nine members were in attendance. Barb Butler recited the luncheon prayer for the group and called the meeting to order. Everyone welcomed our newest member, Shirley Hughes. Marsha Clayborne read 'Thank You' cards from Irma Newland, Eleanor Doup, and Jean Riley. Barb handed out a copy of Psalm 51:10 - "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me," associating spring cleaning for your heart and soul. A game was played and everyone received a pair of garden gloves. The minutes and treasury reports were given, and dues and missions were collected. The church picnic is scheduled on Thursday, June 11 at Gambier shelter house. The next UMW meeting will be Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Ariel Foundation Park. The meeting was adjourned by Ellen Kaiser.

### UMW/Church Picnic - Marsha Clayborne

The Church Picnic was held on June 11 and hosted by the UMW. There were around 30 people to enjoy the great food, fun, and fellowship. Joe Beran volunteered his time to be the auctioneer. Joe did a wonderful job and also thanks to the auction runners, Jesse Gourley and Gina Lawhon. The silent auction brought in \$184 for the church treasury. Thanks to everyone who contributed this year in making our picnic a great success. [Photos on page 7.]



**Prayer Chain** – Marsha Clayborne

The Prayer Chain is a system for timely sharing, within the congregation, the concerns of those who are reaching out in need of prayer. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call the first person on the prayer chain. They will then call the next person on the list. If no one answers, we leave a message on their voicemail and continue to the next person on the list. If you would like to be put on the list, please call Marsha at 740-501-5841.

Marsha Clayborne	740-501-5841
Jean Riley	740-392-6171
Eleanor Doup and Joan Coon	740-397-1810
Barb Butler	740-397-7424
Bev Lahmon	740-397-2906
Don and Irma Newland	740-392-1367
Mary and Karolyn Smith	740-427-2250
Erika Wolfe	740-397-5515
Donna Lybarger	740-501-7109
Cary and Joanne Purcell	614-570-7809
Bob and Linda Joseph	614-565-1102
Bitsi Gourley	740-427-1270
Ellen Kaiser	740-392-3607

**Birthdays**

## July

2 Ellen Kaiser  
16 Elliott Bush  
20 Katie Beran  
21 Ryan Rupp  
24 Mike Stevens  
28 Mary Stevens  
29 Barb Butler

## August

1 Mick Gourley, Sr.  
6 Trudy Bush  
15 Lyndsey Teter  
15 Gina Lawhon  
16 Linda Joseph  
18 Irma Newland  
19 Bonnie Lawhon  
27 Wayne Clayborne  
27 Mike Dumbaugh  
30 John Johnson  
30 Bill Lawhon  
31 Seth Lawhon

**Kroger Community Rewards** – Barb Butler

This is a reminder to enroll (or re-enroll each April) in the Kroger Community Rewards program to benefit HUMC.

The web site is [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and the church ID is 91901. If you have any problems, call 1-800-KROGERS.

Since December 2013, Hopewell has received \$586.16 from Kroger Community Rewards!

**Thank You** – from Elaine Farie

A note of thanks and appreciation for the flowers, cards, food, love and prayers to all after my recent knee surgery. You are truly special. God bless you.

**Financial Report** (as of June 22, 2015) – Barb Butler, Treasurer

Effective this newsletter, I will be reporting a condensed financial report. A complete financial statement will be presented at each Council Meeting.

General Fund	\$32,078.45
Building Fund	\$14,824.57

Finance Committee will be meeting in July prior to the July Council Meeting.

**Follow Hopewell UMC...**

...on the Web:

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

...on Facebook:

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

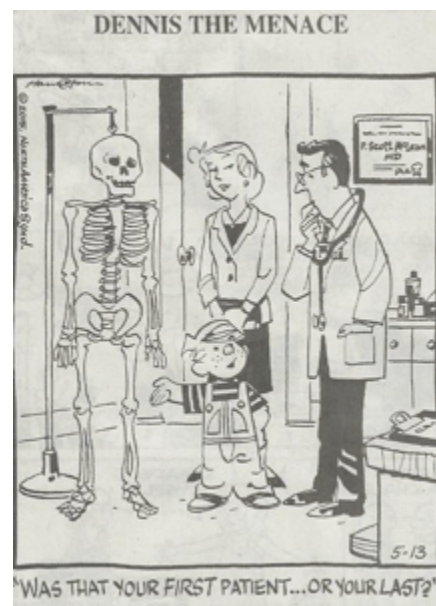
**Follow Three Rivers District...**

<http://3riversumc.org>

### Nursing Outreach Ministry Update – Elaine Farie, RN

We live in a busy world-our calendars quickly fill with dates for meetings, events, and responsibilities that can consume us before we know where the " time has gone."

And Sundays (especially in the summer) have become the "day" for lots of activities as well. We realized this on June 14th for our "Caregiving Isn't for Cowards" event here at Hopewell. Our three speakers were very gracious and informative as they shared their information with a small audience. We may repeat this important topic on caregiving later in the year. Everyone please stay healthy and enjoy summer. [Photos on page 7.]



### Be a Member – Joe Beran

Katie and I want to become “registered” members of Hopewell UMC! Most of you know that as a pastor I was a member of the conference and not the specific church I served. Katie always became a member of the church where we were. Quite frankly she is not certain where she was last on the rolls, or how many churches still count her!

Since retirement we visited some churches in our area not so much seeking out a place of worship as just visiting some friends. We LOVE Hopewell UMC and want to be members. For a while I felt like my health would prevent me from being active enough to be a worthy member. That seems to be on the mend.

Membership—roots in a church—is vital both for our Christian growth and for the church family. As Pastor Lee has mentioned, Christian fellowship is very important all around. I love to see the new faces at church. Some were just starting to attend when we were moving. I don't know who has joined since we left, but I hope we can schedule a membership time soon. I also hope we can make it a group hug!

Shalom



### **Vision Team Report – Bob Joseph**

Eight HUMC visionaries met at Parkside Restaurant on May 13 to consider three questions. The questions, and a few selected ideas from the discussion, are as follows: (a full report is available on request)

#### **~How should we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HUMC church building?**

- Present snippets of history each Sunday.
- Clean up, spruce up and rejuvenate the church thoroughly.
- Hold a capital campaign for defined purposes, e.g.,
  - restore the church bell to the steeple?
  - illuminate the steeple (e.g., Ebenezer UMC)
  - add parking
- Hold a big event on the anniversary(s)
  - Invite neighbors, past pastors, the District Superintendent and Conference Bishop
  - Re-dedicate the church, fill a time capsule, launch balloons
  - Record the event with news coverage, guest book, photos.
- Design and make a quilt, e.g., sewing in current member names.

#### **~In 100 years, what will the community remember about Hopewell UMC?**

- We will be known for
  - Outreach ministries
  - Nursing ministry
  - Food pantry donations
  - Animal shelter support
  - Diaper wars
- We will be a community 'beacon,' 'The Pearl in the Field'
- Blessing of the Animals
- Earth Sunday celebration
- 100% apportionments met for many years
- Never in debt, although struggling at times

#### **~How should 'outreach' and 'evangelism' be practiced effectively at Hopewell UMC?**

- Hold events designed to reach neighbors, e.g., concerts and guest speakers
- Place cards or pads in pews for prayer requests, visitor information
- Enhance youth/children's education, e.g., Bible School
- Continually update social media (Facebook, Web site) and external signage
- Define and expand the term "community" by asking "Who is my neighbor?"

**Next Vision Team meeting:** Wednesday, August 5, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Josephs' home, 241 Valleybrook Circle, Howard, OH 43028. All members and friends of HUMC are invited for a potluck dinner and discussion.

### **HUMC History Moment – An Excerpt from the Original 1835 Deed**

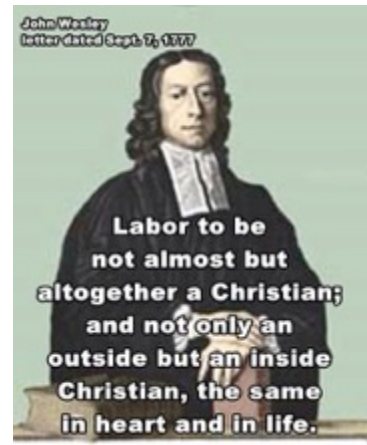
As we prepare to celebrate 100 years of the current church building, we should appreciate that Hopewell congregational history predates the current structure by at least 80 years! From a copy (given to Jean Riley by her uncle Dale Steinmetz) of the original deed for the church and cemetery property, dated July 7, 1835, we learn that 'George Crouse & wife' deeded to 'Benj. Ellis & others, Trustees of Methodist Church, Pleasant T(ownship).' one-half acre for \$50 'that they shall erect and build...thereon a house of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopal church...according to the rules and discipline – which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the minister and Preacher of said church....(The) minister and preacher...shall from time to time be duly authorized to preach and expound God's holy word therein...."

There are two other deeds, dated 1879 and 1913, which appear to add strips of land to the cemetery. A full copy of the deeds will be posted soon on the church Web site, [www.mvhopewellumc.org](http://www.mvhopewellumc.org).





To celebrate Mothers Day on May 10, the children presented carnation bouquets to all the mothers. Young Adam gave a flower and a kiss to his mother, Sara.



About 30 picnickers enjoyed the food, fellowship, silent auction bidding, and warm weather at the Gambier Park shelter house on June 11. Thanks to UMW for sponsoring the picnic.



On June 14, a small, but appreciative, crowd heard presenters from the hospital, hospice, and health department share resources for "Caring for the Caregiver." Thanks to the Nursing Ministry team.