

# 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, 2015*

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

#### **Centennial**

Psalms 103:15-18

“As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower in the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is  
from everlasting to everlasting  
upon those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children  
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.”



This year both Hopewell and South Vernon United Methodist Churches celebrate one hundred years of Christian fellowship in their current locations. Their paths to this united juncture are a little different. South Vernon started as an independent fellowship that joined the Evangelical United Brethren. Hopewell started in the Methodist Episcopal North. Hopewell's affiliation speaks to a nation and churches still divided by the trauma of the Civil War and Reconstruction and bitter racism. South Vernon's reflects the American streak of individuality and independence from outside oversight. But in the last hundred years we have begun to see healing between north and south, and black and white. We have begun to see that the body of Christ unites to common goals of grace, righteousness, peace and reconciliation. So what does a hundred years bring?



Centennial, a hundred years, is a very long span of years for you and me. A lot can happen in a hundred years. We have seen nations rise and fall in the last hundred years. Who remembers the Holy Roman Empire anymore? We have seen whole new technologies rise to change the way we live. Whoever would have thought about cell phones, gene splicing, never mind the zipper [1913], electric power drill [1916], electric hair dryer [1920] and one of my favorites the transistor radio [1954]. Who would have thought we would have ever

made it to the moon or perhaps human settlements on Mars? Last month we saw pictures of Pluto and were informed of an earth-like world in the 'goldilocks' zone around a distant star. What is next? Are we going to be no longer alone? What does this mean for us, our church and our beliefs? What of Artificial Intelligence? Will we have complete interface with technology and with one another?

In 1920 the first black bishops were elected in the Methodist Episcopal Church. That year the first woman was granted a local preacher status. In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Church North, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church joined to form the Methodist Church. In 1956 full clergy rights for women were granted, and African-American Methodist churches within the African-American Jurisdiction were allowed to join all white jurisdictions within their geographical area. In 1961 missionaries in Cuba were recalled, with native pastors soon following. The year 1968 saw the union of the Evangelical United Brethren with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church. United Methodist Women were formed in 1971. And in 1996, twenty-five years after the women, the United Methodist Men were formed. These are just a few of the highlights of our denomination's history in the last hundred years. They reflect some of the social changes of the times such as woman's suffrage, reuniting of the north and south after the Civil War, civil rights, and the threat of communism, to name a few.

What will the next hundred years bring? We are currently struggling with changes in our understanding of human sexuality. We are looking at changes to the Middle East as national boundaries drawn in the twentieth century begin to collapse. This is just the near future. What would happen if the length of our life span was extended by fifty years or a hundred or perhaps a thousand years? If alien civilizations are discovered in the next hundred years and the technology is developed to reach those civilizations in a reasonable amount of time, would the United Methodist Church send out missionaries, or would we find other worlds redeemed by Christ? Only time and God knows.

Whatever the future holds we know that God will be there. We know that his love will be steadfast. We know that, no matter how long our span of years, they will be like grass and the flowers of the field in the span of eternity. We know that without Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we will become slaves to our elemental passions. These are constant: the need of our redeeming, and the willingness of a God who does not change in his love for us. Praise be to God for his steadfast love. Amen.

### **John Wesley's Sermon, "Worldly Folly"**

Do good. Do all the good thou canst. Let plenty supply thy neighbour's wants; and thou wilt never want something to do. Canst thou find none that need the necessaries of life, that are pinched with cold and hunger; none that have not raiment to put on, or a place where to lay their head; none that are wasted with pining sickness; none that are languishing in prison? If you duly considered our Lord's words, "The poor have you always with you," you would no more ask, "What shall I do?"

### **Adult Sunday School – submitted by Linda Joseph**

The adult Sunday School class meets each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the gathering room at the back of the sanctuary. Using the readings in the Lectionary calendar, (<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/lectionary-calendar/>) the members have lively discussions about the scripture and what it means in our daily lives. Some members of the class compare and contrast the scriptures, while others listen and learn. Join the group when you can--or start your own at a time that fits your schedule.

### UMW Report - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup at 12:00 on Wednesday, August 12. Eleanor and Joan served a delicious lunch and dessert, and Joan recited the prayer for the group. Eight members were present, and Barb led the meeting. Discussion about the organizations and the different ways to contribute donations were shared with one another. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the school supplies drive to help children at Columbia School. The UMW will be selling the Ultimate Cleaning Cloths again for \$6 each or two for \$10. They make nice gifts, and the material is like a chamois to clean your car or anything around the house. It can be used over and over again. The secretary and treasurer reports were given, followed by dues and missions collections. The program was given by Eleanor Doup and Joan Coon. Devotions were read by Joan. The next meeting is scheduled at the home of Marsha Clayborne on Wednesday, September 9.



### Hearts Strangely Warmed

Hearts strangely warmed when God comes in and takes away our guilt and sin. God's grace ignites our empty lives, Our fears are gone; our faith revives.

Hearts strangely warmed when love is there and neighbors see how much we care. The love of God to all we show; we share our faith with all we know.

Hearts strangely warmed, our parish calls; a world in need beyond our walls. We serve the Lord in many ways. Our voice is heard in hymns of praise.

When hearts are warmed, the church will stand as people join with heart and hand. Our lives together intertwine with life eternal; love divine.

--Author unknown

### The first-ever cordless phone...

...was created by God. He named it "Prayer". It never loses its signal and you never have to recharge it. Use it anywhere. --submitted by Marsha Clayborne

### In Case You Forgot...

- If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
- If God had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
- God sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
- When you want to talk, God will listen.
- God could live anywhere in the universe, and yet God chose to live in your heart.
- ...and that Christmas gift God sent you in Bethlehem?

--Author unknown

### 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

#### September

4	Natalie Gourley
5	Virginia Skinner
7	Corby Coon
14	Ron Skinner
15	Jessica Hartney
15	Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe
18	Jean Riley
18	Bob Kaiser
22	Cary Purcell
24	Eleanor Doup
24	Marsha Clayborne
25	Don Russell

#### October

5	Shirley Hughes
8	Ellie Purcell
17	Pete Lawhon
18	Bev Lahmon
19	Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
21	Aubrey Purcell
22	Elaine Farie



### Financial Report (as of August 24, 2015)

– Barb Butler, Treasurer

General Fund Balance	\$35,187.28
Building Maintenance Fund	\$14,825.93

On August 2, 2015, Hopewell UMC kicked off its Centennial Capital Campaign Drive. Presently our pledged total has reached \$32,740, with \$11,845 paid.

### Follow Hopewell UMC...

...on the Web:

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

...on Facebook:

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

### Follow Three Rivers District...

<http://3riversumc.org>

### **Centennial Capital Campaign Update** – *Bob Joseph*

Just as the Hopewell congregation of believers shaped history in 1915, so, too, can today's congregation make a mark and leave a legacy to be remembered in the next 100 years!

For the past few months, a joint committee of Finance, Trustees, and Vision members has planned a Centennial Capital Campaign that will honor and celebrate the church's past and prepare for the ministries of today and the future. The church council and the congregation approved the campaign initiative on Jul 12 and Jul 19, respectively. The pledge campaign will run through April 30, 2016 (the centennial of the church dedication), and donors are asked to fulfill their pledges over the next 24 months. The committee will also be soliciting gifts from external sources, e.g., foundations, corporations, and individuals not directly associated with the church. Gifts of all sizes are coveted!

Treasurer Barb Butler reports that 14 church families and individuals have already pledged \$32,740, almost 2/3rds of the \$50,000 goal! And almost ¼th of the goal has been received!

Campaign funds, as available, could be used for a host of projects that preserve, restore, and update the church. The joint committee members developed a list of possible projects (with rough cost estimates), submitted that list to the congregation in survey form, and asked for project rankings and additional ideas to guide them in using the funds. To date the top ranked projects are as follows: 1) Purchase land to expand parking area, 2) Upgrade the electrical system, 3) Restore and reset the church bell, and 4) Install water purification system.

Monthly updates and special events will mark the next 8 months, leading to the dedication centennial celebration on May 1, 2016.

Campaign Chair Cary Purcell (614.519.2430) and the committee (Barb Butler, Linda Joseph, Bill Lawhon, Mickey Gourley, John Wolfe, Jean Riley, and Bob Joseph) welcome any questions you may have related to the campaign and the projects.

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

Fourteen visionaries gathered at the Josephs' home for food, fellowship and discussion at the Vision Team meeting August 5. We discussed a) Vision ideas converted to action, and b) the capital campaign. A third topic (Hopewell serving the community) will be deferred to the next meeting.

\*Vision team ideas that have recently been acted upon include

- the capital campaign, which kicked off on Aug 2.
- the 'Hopewell history moment' presented in worship services.
- the cornerstone centennial celebration held on August 2.

\*The capital campaign discussion centered on

- the Purpose (to honor the past, celebrate the centennial, and prepare for the future).
- the Progress to date on the internal campaign.
- the Projects proposed for use of the funds. The congregational survey of project priorities will help guide Finance and Trustees in using the funds.

In closing, each member was asked to add 'one more thing,' i.e., their idea or comment that hadn't been expressed during the meeting. Among the comments were the following:

- Perhaps we should plan a 'Harvest Festival' as a special event. (Irma Newland)
- Compared to about 10 years ago, attendance has increased greatly! (Brad Coon)
- A recipe collection is in the works. Please send your recipes. (Marsha Clayborne)
- We're moving in the right direction. (Karolyn Smith)
- It's good to see all the children in worship. (Vicki Riley Yusko)

**Next Vision Team meeting:** Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. (Location to be determined.) All members and friends of HUMC are invited for dinner and discussion.

## Our Methodist Roots (1736-1816) -- Part 1 of 2

The United Methodist Church shares a common history and heritage with other Methodist and Wesleyan bodies. The lives and ministries of John Wesley (1703–1791) and of his brother, Charles (1707–1788), mark the origin of their common roots. Both John and Charles were Church of England missionaries to the colony of Georgia, arriving in March 1736. It was their only occasion to visit America. Their mission was far from an unqualified success, and both returned to England disillusioned and discouraged, Charles in December 1736, and John in February 1738.

Both of the Wesley brothers had transforming religious experiences in May 1738. John's heart "was strangely warmed" at a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. In the years following, the Wesleys succeeded in leading a lively renewal movement in the Church of England. As the Methodist movement grew, it became apparent that their ministry would spread to the American colonies as some Methodists made the exhausting and hazardous Atlantic voyage to the New World.

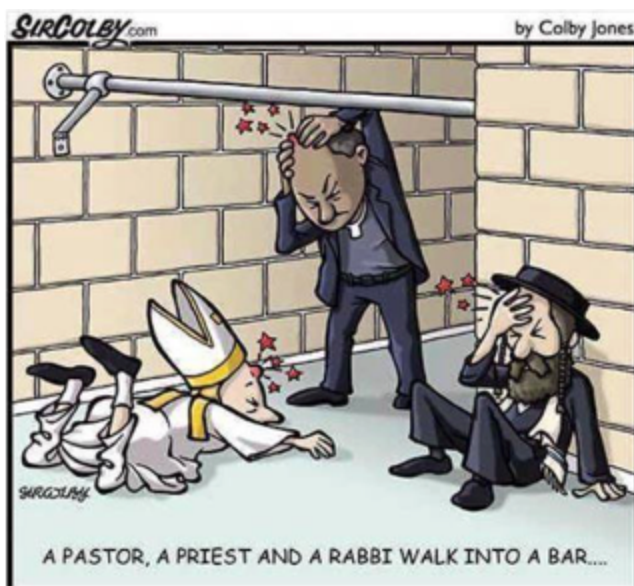
Organized Methodism in America began as a lay movement. Among its earliest leaders were Robert Strawbridge, an immigrant farmer who organized work about 1760 in Maryland and Virginia, Philip Embury and his cousin, Barbara Heck, who began work in New York in 1766, and Captain Thomas Webb, whose labors were instrumental in Methodist beginnings in Philadelphia in 1767. African Americans participated actively in these groundbreaking and formational initiatives though much of that contribution was acknowledged without much biographical detail.

To strengthen the Methodist work in the colonies, John Wesley sent two of his lay preachers, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore, to America in 1769. Two years later Richard Wright and Francis Asbury were also dispatched by Wesley to undergird the growing American Methodist societies. Francis Asbury became the most important figure in early American Methodism. His energetic devotion to the principles of Wesleyan theology, ministry, and organization shaped Methodism in America in a way unmatched by any other individual. In addition to the preachers sent by Wesley, some Methodists in the colonies also answered the call to become lay preachers in the movement.

The first conference of Methodist preachers in the colonies was held in Philadelphia in 1773. The ten who attended took several important actions. They pledged allegiance to Wesley's leadership and agreed that they would not administer the sacraments because they were laypersons. Their people were to receive the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper at the local Anglican parish church. They emphasized strong discipline among the societies and preachers. A system of regular conferences of the preachers was inaugurated similar to those Wesley had instituted in England to conduct the business of the Methodist movement.

*...to be continued in the next newsletter*

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2012.*



### Prayer for Comfort

O Christ Jesus,  
 when all is darkness  
 and we feel our weakness and helplessness,  
 give us the sense of Your presence,  
 Your love and Your strength.  
 Help us to have perfect trust  
 in Your protecting love  
 and strengthening power,  
 so that nothing may frighten or worry us,  
 for, living close to You,  
 we shall see Your hand,  
 Your purpose, Your will through all things.

*--St. Ignatius of Loyola*



Colorful balloons, with Hopewell cards attached, were launched, and a gentle breeze carried them northward on Aug 2.



The Hopewell church family stood still and smiled for a photo during the centennial celebration of the cornerstone laying on Aug 2.



Pastor Lee Cubie welcomed Jean Campbell and Donna Spinks as the newest members of Hopewell Church on Aug 2.



The old Hopewell meeting house, built in 1855, was in need of much repair, and the visionary members laid the cornerstone for the current building on Aug 1, 1915



During the Youth Yak moments on Jun 28, the youth—and adults—surprised Pastor Lee with an abundance of candy—enough to satisfy his sweet tooth for many months!



You can witness the amazing, God-given talent of pianist **Timothy Noble** at HUMC and SVUMC worship services on **Sunday, Oct 11**. At 16 years old, this Knox County native has already 'opened' concerts for some of the most famous gospel groups and has released seven CD projects. Please plan to be present for this wonderful time of musical praise!