

# 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.*

*November - December, 2015*

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

#### **The Kingdom of God**

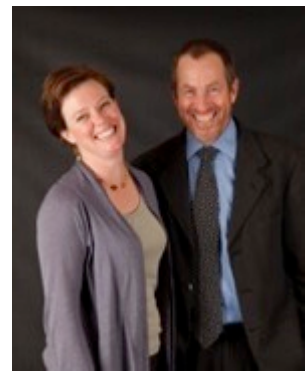
In the coming weeks we will be looking at how Jesus describes the coming kingdom of God. But what is God's kingdom like? In the book of Revelation, which is about the kingdom of God forcing its way into the world, the kingdom is described in this way:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be more mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." *Revelation 21:1-4*

From this we can see that God desires to lead us into a promised land. It is in this land that the life we have been searching for will be found. What a wonderful promise to be in a place where we will no longer grow old! To be in a place of not having to say good-bye to loved ones because you or they have passed away. What a wonderful time it will be to not have genetic illnesses, traumatic accidents, debilitating addictions, or destructive, sinful habits. All because God is with us as he was with Adam and Eve. Just as he walked with them in the garden, he is promising to walk with us. We will be as we were meant to be. We will know God as we were meant to know God.

A new heaven and a new earth have come with a price. It cost the people of Israel much pain and suffering as they learned that it was not humanly possible to keep the law of God. It cost Jesus his life. And we are not immune to this cost. We are described as sheep led to the slaughter. We are asked to persevere through life's trials, to strive for the treasure to come. Our journey into this new heaven and new earth is described as if we are like a woman about to give birth. We are in the midst of pain, the pain of learning how far we are from God, the pain of resisting temptations, the wiles of the devil who seeks to keep us. We are on the cusp of delivering, with God's help, a new life. Just like a woman who gives birth, we are in the pains of childbirth, but we are about to experience the joy of a healthy body, desired for new life.

...continued



The kingdom of God is what we all desire. The road to it involves the pain of knowing that we have sinned and are caught in the midst of sin. It involves the knowledge of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It involves the struggle of casting off the yoke of sin. It involves the joy and peace of taking on the yoke of Jesus. He promises that his yoke will be light as long as we trust in him.

In the coming weeks as we move into the season of Advent let us seek for God's kingdom. Let us take up the yoke of Jesus. And may the peace of God settle deeply into our lives. Amen.

### **Methodist Roots (1736-1816) -- Part 2 of 2**

The American Revolution had a profound impact on Methodism. John Wesley's Toryism and his writings against the revolutionary cause did not enhance the image of Methodism among many who supported independence. Furthermore, a number of Methodist preachers refused to bear arms to aid the patriots.

When independence from England had been won, Wesley recognized that changes were necessary in American Methodism. He sent Thomas Coke to America to superintend the work with Asbury. Coke brought with him a prayer book titled *The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America*, prepared by Wesley and incorporating his revision of the Church of England's Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion. Two other preachers, Richard Whatcoat and Thomas Vasey, whom Wesley had ordained, accompanied Coke. Wesley's ordinations set a precedent that ultimately permitted Methodists in America to become an independent church.

In December 1784, the famous Christmas Conference of preachers was held in Baltimore at Lovely Lane Chapel to chart the future course of the movement in America. Most of the American preachers attended, probably including two African Americans, Harry Hosier and Richard Allen. It was at this gathering that the movement became organized as The Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

In the years following the Christmas Conference, The Methodist Episcopal Church published its first Discipline (1785), adopted a quadrennial General Conference, the first of which was held in 1792, drafted a Constitution in 1808, refined its structure, established a publishing house, and became an ardent proponent of revivalism and the camp meeting.

As The Methodist Episcopal Church was in its infancy, two other churches were being formed. In their earliest years they were composed almost entirely of German-speaking people. The first was founded by Philip William Otterbein (1726–1813) and Martin Boehm (1725–1812). Otterbein, a German Reformed pastor, and Boehm, a Mennonite, preached an evangelical message and experience similar to the Methodists. In 1800 their followers formally organized the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. A second church, The Evangelical Association, was begun by Jacob Albright (1759–1808), a Lutheran farmer and tilemaker in eastern Pennsylvania who had been converted and nurtured under Methodist teaching. The Evangelical Association was officially organized in 1803. These two churches were to unite with each other in 1946 and with The Methodist Church in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church.

By the time of Asbury's death in March 1816, Otterbein, Boehm, and Albright had also died. The churches they nurtured had survived the difficulties of early life and were beginning to expand numerically and geographically.

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2012*

### UMW Report - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at the Hopewell Church on October 14 at 1:00 PM. Shirley Hughes was the hostess for the event and prepared a luncheon for the group. She also said the blessing for the seven members and a guest. After the luncheon, Shirley conducted the program, and the group was to recite their favorite Bible verses. Games were played, and everyone won prizes. Barb Butler started the meeting, and the group decided to collect for the winter drive, scarves, gloves, hats, and socks to be taken to the Salvation Army. The deadline will be Sunday, December 13. A box will be placed at the back entrance of the church if anyone would like to donate. The collection will be for adults and children. UMW is sponsoring a church family dinner at the Mullets on Nov 10; UMW will sponsor the meals for the pastor and his wife. Each year the UMW sends a check for \$100 to the Three Rivers District and a Call to Prayer and Self Denial. The Trim-a-Tree is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup on Wednesday, December 2 at 11:30 AM. The UMW is to bring items for the silent auction. The meeting was adjourned by Jean Riley and Bev Lahmon.



### How a Christian is Like a Pumpkin

A lady recently being baptized was asked by a co-worker what it was like to be a Christian. She replied, "It's like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." - submitted by Jean Riley



### A voter expressed disdain...

...to a candidate, saying "I wouldn't vote for you if you were St. Peter himself." The candidate replied: "If I were St. Peter, you wouldn't be in my voting district."

-submitted by Bill Lawhon

### Pastor-Parish Relations Report

– submitted by Elaine Farie, RN

The PPR committee of both Hopewell and South Vernon United Methodist Churches continue to share communication about issues related to the upcoming Charge Conference.

Both congregations' PPR members attended a preliminary meeting with the District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Call, held at the Utica United Methodist Church on October 8.

The Three Rivers District Charge Conference for Hopewell and South Vernon was held at the Mulberry Street United Methodist Church on October 27th.

We ask your continued prayers as we pursue our mission: "To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ, and minister to the needs of others in His Name."

### Birthdays

November

2 Sara Lawhon  
10 Wendy Cedoz  
22 Gary Hughes  
28 Molly Mae Teter  
29 Bob Joseph

December

3 Jessie Gourley  
7 Joan Coon  
7 Joe Beran  
7 Donna Spinks  
17 Marilyn Butcher  
21 Brian Zimmerman  
21 Emily Hauger

### Nursing Outreach Ministry

– submitted by Elaine Farie, RN

What would you do to help save a life? We all probably have a different answer to that question. Maybe – by sharing some of your life – your blood.

We are hoping to sponsor an American Red Cross Blood Mobile visit – early in 2016. Due to limited space here at Hopewell, it will be at South Vernon Church on a date in January to be determined.

Prior to that, a sign-up sheet for probable donors is being circulated at Sunday AM services at both churches. To be able to schedule a date, we must have at least 25 signed up.

Thank you for sharing your life -- remembering-- Jesus shed His Blood for us.

### Next Vision Team meeting:

Wednesday, Nov 11, 7 – 8:30 PM.  
We will meet for dessert and discussion at Bob Evans restaurant on Coshocton Road. All members and friends of HUMC are invited.

Topics for discussion:

- What is our progress this year against the original “opportunities”?
- How does Hopewell church attract and retain new individuals and families (“Make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ”)?
- How can Hopewell better serve the community (“Minister to the needs of others in His name”)?

### Financial Report (as of October 31,2015)

– Barb Butler, Treasurer

General Fund	\$37,609.81
Building Capital Maintenance Fund	\$14,823.64
Centennial Capital Campaign Fund:	
As of October, 16 pledges totaling	\$34,540.00.
Paid pledges	\$14,555.00

The Finance Committee met on September 30 to prepare a 2016 Budget (proposal) and discuss other items to be taken to Administrative Council for approval.

### 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>

## Centennial Celebration and Capital Campaign Update

For the past three months at Hopewell UMC, we've been commemorating the 100 years of the Hopewell church building, beginning with the cornerstone laying centennial on August 2 and culminating with a celebration of the building dedication centennial on May 1, 2016.

Among the initiatives are a **capital campaign**, **monthly special events**, and a **weekly review of events** from 100 years ago.

Capital campaign: Treasurer Barb Butler reports that 16 individuals and families have pledged \$34,540, over 69% of the \$50,000 goal! And 42% of the goal has been received! Campaign funds could be used for a host of projects that preserve, restore, and update the church, including 1) Purchasing land to expand parking area, 2) Upgrading the electrical system, 3) Restoring and resetting the church bell, and 4) Installing a water purification system.

Monthly special events: Several activities and projects are targeted for the next eight months leading to the dedication centennial celebration on May 1, 2016.

October – Timothy Noble shared his God-given talent of piano and voice.

November – Coin jars will be distributed to the youth for depositing their gifts to the centennial campaign.

December – During the Trim-a-tree evening (Dec 6), we'll spend time learning about Christmas 1915...and perhaps decorate the tree as it would have been adorned 100 years ago.

January – "Hopewell's Got Talent" – special talent from HUMC will be featured in each service.

February – The HUMC recipe book will be published.

March – The HUMC directory will be updated.

April – To be determined.

May – **Please save May 1 on your calendar** for the dedication centennial celebration!! The planning committee is acting on some exciting ideas that will involve

\*past pastors and members, family, friends and neighbors, and

\*the church bell, a commemorative quilt (or two), a time capsule, potluck dinner, concert....

Hopewell UMC 100 Years Ago: Each week, we look at some of the events, both local and national, that the Hopewell faithful were experiencing in 1915. In this way we may gain some insight into "What were they thinking!?" as they replaced the old meeting house with a new, modern structure.

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.



"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."



## The “BIG C” Church of Jesus Christ...

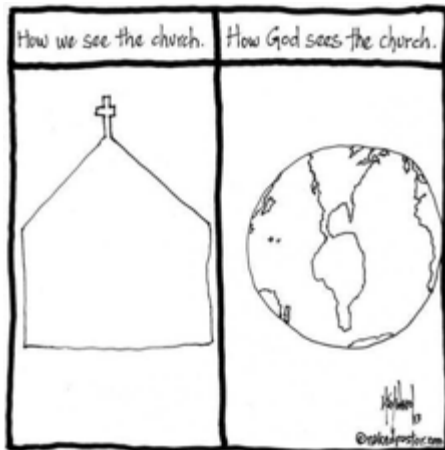
...does not exist for the organization of religion—it exists to help people connect with JESUS!

Christianity is a relationship, not a religion! The “little c” church is an IMPERFECT institution run by IMPERFECT people who are endeavoring to carry on the ministry of a PERFECT Savior. We are going to fall short from time to time and even have stuff blow up—it goes without saying—but the “Big C” Church is God’s strategy for bringing the Good News of Jesus to the world—and God is going to work through the Church of Jesus Christ with or without organized religion, United Methodism, Reynoldsburg [Hopewell] UMC, you or me.

Why? Because the CHURCH is of GOD—and will be preserved to the end of time—for the conduct of WORSHIP—the due administration of His WORD and SACRAMENTS—the maintenance of CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP and DISCIPLINE—the edification of BELIEVERS and the CONVERSION of the WORLD.

So as long as the invitation is on the table for us to be a part of what God is doing on planet Earth through the “BIG C” church, I am in—clay pot and all. What about YOU?

*Pastor Jeff Greenway, Reynoldsburg UMC (10-11-2015)*



## 12 Reasons Why I As a Pastor Have Decided To Quit Attending Sporting Events

1. The coach never came to visit me.
2. Every time I went, they asked for money.
3. The people sitting in my row didn't seem very friendly.
4. The seats were very hard.
5. The referees made a decision I didn't agree with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrites—they only came to see what others were wearing!
7. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I had never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled on my only day to sleep in and run errands.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyway.
12. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.



Gifted (and hard-working) pianist **Timothy Noble** and his family joined us for worship services at HUMC and SVUMC 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. We were truly blessed to experience Timothy's music and story.

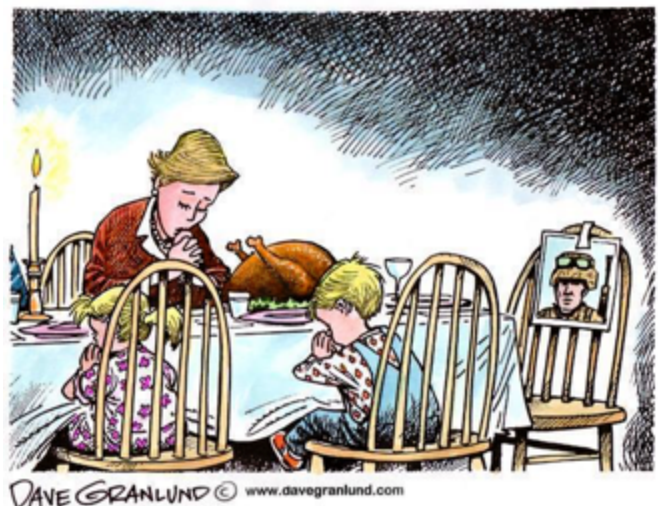


### CROP Walk

Thanks to everyone who participated in and donated to the CROP walk to make the day (Oct 16) successful in helping others. Walkers included the Wolfe family, Marsha Clayborne, Shirley Hughes, and Don Newland.

Hopewell UMC had 11 walkers (nearly twice the number as 2014) and collected a total of \$300. Don Newland received a trophy for being the most senior walker. *(Ed. note: The Mt. Vernon CROP walk is one of about 1300 walks nationwide that raise \$14 million to fight hunger locally and globally.)*

*-submitted by Marsha Clayborne; photo by John Wolfe*



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com