

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.*

August - September, 2016

Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

"Our Daily Bread"

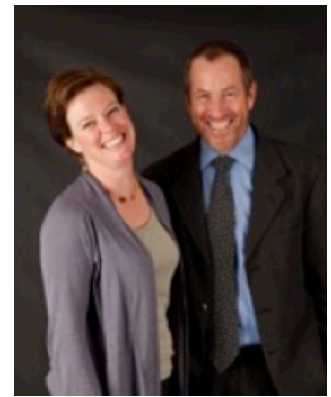
I love bread. I remember my mother's kitchen in West Newberry, Massachusetts. I remember how the kitchen would smell when she was baking bread, how warm and wonderful. I could hardly wait for her to tip it out of her bread pans. The crust was always a golden brown and slightly crunchy. When she would cut me a slice it would have such wonderful holes in it that would catch the butter. It was so delicious, and it brings back such fond memories of my mother. I especially enjoyed it with wild plum preserves. We would gather these plums, sometimes called beach plums, from a scrubby little bush that would grow in the sand dunes of Plum Island. It was a late summer activity when we would go to the ocean: collect the plums, which are cherry size, get hot and sweaty, and then go plunge into the cold Atlantic waters off Plum Island. Those were wonderful times.

Plum Island plays a part, for me, that few other places can. It still calls me to this day. Those were days unlike most days. They were carefree. There was never a sense of disappointment. It was a mythical time measured by the pulse of waves as they rolled onto the beach, measured by the pounding of running feet along the beach and swishing into the dunes. It is linked to memories of my mother baking bread.

In the gospels of Matthew and Luke we are introduced to the Lord's Prayer. In the middle of each prayer is a petition for bread. Before our asking for bread we pray to the Father to hallow his name and for his kingdom to come. After we ask for our bread we pray for our forgiveness as we forgive others and finally not to be led into temptation. We pray this all the time and when I pray it and read it my first impression is that bread that my mother baked and covered with butter and wild plum preserves. But is that what Jesus is teaching us to pray for?

If I should ask you "What do people pray for?", what would be your answer? In church we most often have prayers for healing and for comfort in the midst of sorrow. When people are traveling they ask for safe travels. Sometimes, people ask for jobs, homes, or cars. I have never heard anyone ask for food, probably because it is not hard to come by in the U.S. In fact, for wealthy people the world over, food has rarely been a problem. This one line, that Jesus teaches us to pray, is of little importance to many people. So why is it in the Lord's prayer?

Perhaps, it is an example of a kind of prayer. Perhaps, it is a prayer to encourage us to bring our daily needs to God. Much like the examples of our prayers in our worship for healing and



such. But what if our daily needs were like those of Janis Joplin, who prayed for a Mercedes Benz, a color TV and a night on the town. Are we to pray for those things? Is that what Jesus is teaching us to pray for? It seems we do not need much encouragement to pray for our physical needs. So what is Jesus trying to teach us?

The problem with our understanding of this part of the Lord's prayer may revolve around one Greek word, *epiousios*. We translate this word into our English word "daily." There is a problem with this translation. The problem is that we are uncertain as to what the word means. When some of our earlier translators encountered *epiousios* combined with the word for bread, they thought of it as "daily bread," the food that keeps us alive. This made sense during a time when food was not always dependable, but it may miss the point. *Epiousios* seems to have been invented just for the Lord's prayer. It is not found anywhere else in the scriptures. We have yet to find it in any ancient Greek writings. In searching for the root meaning of *epiousios*, translators believe that originates from the Greek word *ousia*, which, as a verb, means "to be" and as a noun, means "substance." If we understand *epiousios* to mean "substance," we could read this portion of the Lord's Prayer to read, "Give us this day our bread of substance," or to spell it out even further we could read it to say, "Give us this day that which brings the fullness of the Father into our lives." So what is Jesus teaching us?

In both Matthew and Luke, the Lord's Prayer is followed by parables about the kingdom. Matthew ends his discussion with Jesus telling his disciples to not be anxious for material things but to "seek first his (God the Father's) kingdom and his (God the Father's) righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matt. 6:33) And Luke, perhaps more to the point, has Jesus saying, "If you then who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" So what is Jesus teaching us?

As much as I would like for God to restore to me my mother and her fresh baked bread, as well as her wild plum preserves, I do not think that Jesus is asking us to pray for food or any other physical blessing. I believe he is teaching us to pray for the ability to do his will. In John 4:31-38 after Jesus has been talking to the Samaritan woman at the well, his disciples come to him with food and beseech him to eat. Jesus responds with these words, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Is this the bread for which we are to pray? What is that bread? Jesus says, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work." And what is that work? Jesus immediately says, "Do not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest.' I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already ripe for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper may rejoice together."

Later in John we read these words concerning bread, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world." And he says, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:32,33,35)

With these passages in mind how do you read, "Give us this day our daily bread or bread of substance?"

I am sure that there is much more this little petition in the Lord's Prayer can teach us. But its most basic insight is that we cannot please God without his indwelling Holy Spirit. Pray then daily for that bread that keeps us alive in Christ. Pray daily for that bread that gives us the ability to do God's will. Pray daily for that reason to be alive. Amen.

UMW Report - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at the Hopewell Church on July 13. Jean Riley and Ellen Kaiser hosted the seven members with a nice lunch. The group had silent prayer. Ellen conducted the meeting since Barb Butler couldn't attend with a broken foot. The secretary and treasury report was given along with dues and missions collected. UMW agreed to lead the school supplies drive again this year to help children at Pleasant Street School this year. A tote for collecting supplies will be placed the back of the church by the door.

Jean Riley began the program with a reading from Matthew 5:1-16. Jean read devotions, "Four Minute Talks for Laymen," on being salt.

The group took a 10-minute break because a Springer Spaniel came in the open front door of the church. The Laymon children had been riding their bikes along the road and came inside and introduced themselves. They said they would be living in the brick house on Jacobs Road. Their father and mother, Jay and Chrissy, are the generous owners who are renting the parking lot to us. We all thank the Laymon family very much for their generosity. As the children left, we invited them to church that Sunday. Their mother Chrissy and the children did attend our church, and what a delight to have them there!

Jean continued to read notes from the early 1940's on how "The Ladies Aid" or UMW pursued to make money for the UMW and Church. Games were played and prizes won. The meeting was adjourned by Joan Coon. The next meeting will be at the home of Marsha Clayborne on August 10 at 1 PM.

Finance Report as of June 30, 2016 - Barb Butler, Treasurer

General Fund	\$47,841.02
Building Maintenance Fund	\$17,469.07
Centennial Capital Campaign Fund	\$34,464.31

Figures to think about:	2016	2015
Average weekly Attendance for Jan thru Jun	28	27
Average weekly Collection	\$560.87	\$670.96



PPR Committee Report -- Elaine Farie, PPR

Chairperson

On Wednesday, August 10, the PPR committees of Hopewell and South Vernon churches are scheduled to meet with Dr. Brad Call (District Superintendent), as part of the annual review. This will take place at Mulberry United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon at 7 p.m.

Remember, if anyone would like to share a comment related to our Hopewell Church, please contact one of our committee members: Linda Joseph, Bev Lahmon, Ellen Kaiser, Bill Lawhon, Barb Butler, or Elaine Farie. Of course, Pastor Lee is always available.

Communication is vital in every aspect of Life – that's why God gave us a voice.

Nursing Outreach Ministry Update --

Elaine Farie, R.N.

We are about to begin organizing our display for "Nursing and Health Care in Knox County 100 Years Ago." This will be presented for the "Heart of Ohio" tour that Hopewell Methodist will be part of on October 1-2.

Several of our members are dealing with "broken bones", "replaced bones", etc. Speedy recovery – we know Prayer is Great Medicine – and God Is The Great Physician. Stay well.

Methodist Communion and Welch's Grape Juice

In the 1800's, wine was served at communion in most churches, but the temperance movement advocated the total abstinence from all alcohol. Although serving grape juice for communion seemed to be an obvious solution, raw grape juice was only available in season and quickly, and naturally, fermented to wine or vinegar. Some churches suspended communion when grapes were out of season; others substituted water for wine; and most continued to use wine, citing a 'biblical mandate.'

The 1864 General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church addressed the subject by approving the Temperance committee's report recommending, "the pure juice of the grape be used in the celebration of the Lord's Supper."

In 1869, Dr. Thomas B. Welch became a communion steward at Vineland (New Jersey) Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Welch, a former preacher whose voice difficulties forced him to seek a career as a dentist, was staunchly against any use of alcohol. Applying Louis Pasteur's recent breakthrough discoveries about microbes and heat treatment, Dr. Welch perfected a grape juice pasteurization process in his kitchen and began selling "Dr. Welch's Unfermented Wine" to churches preferring an alcohol-free substitute for Communion. The idea didn't take off, and he closed the business after four years.

A couple of years later, his son, Charles, encouraged him to revive the product and promoted it with free samples in churches and with ads in temperance magazines. Sales grew when, in 1876, Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) members refused to receive the sacrament with wine, and when the 1880 Methodist General Conference decreed that "none but pure, unfermented juice of the grape be used in administering the Lord's Supper, whenever practicable."

Charles promoted the beverage as a health tonic, recommending it for typhoid fever, pneumonia, and "all forms of chronic diseases except Diabetes Mellitus." He offered samples at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and advertised it as "the national drink."

Today, Welch's is multinational corporation owned by the National Grape Cooperative Association, comprised of 1300 growers in five states (including Ohio) and Ontario, Canada—and it all began nearly 150 years ago with a Methodist communion steward who wanted a suitable, unfermented wine for Communion.

--Adapted from an article by Joe Iovino

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/methodist-history-controversy-communion-and-welchs-grape-juice>

Anyone who thinks sitting in a church can make them a Christian must think that sitting in a garage can make them a car.

-- quote shared by Eleanor Doup

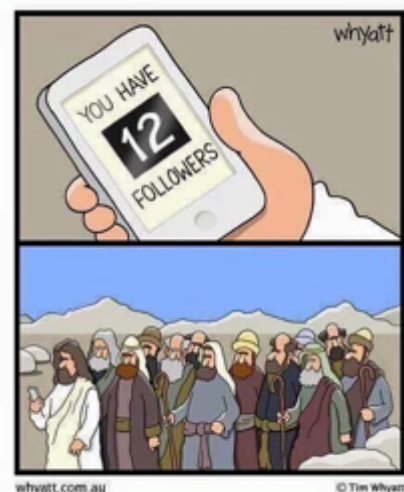
Birthdays

August

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

September

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



Call It The “Two Step” – by Don Newland

My three brothers of that “Greatest Generation” were Bob (12 years older—peacetime Navy, 1939), Norm (10 years older, Army, 1942) and Chuck (8 years older and wartime Navy, 1943). In order, they married Betty, Reba and Betty. I was the brat, I really was! Now Chuck and his Betty (she died in the last six months at 91) could really dance, especially, the jitterbug. They could jitterbug like no one else, as good or better than any! Norm and Reba loved to square dance. Bob and Betty – not so much.

Now Irma would like me to dance with her, but I am not so gifted. Once every so often she will shake her hips, but I remind her that hip replacements are not fun and are not cheap. Why would any woman want to dance with me and end up with broken toes? I say “no thanks,” and I am truly doing her a great favor. The only dance I could even consider would be the “two step” – two to the right, two to the left, two back, and two forward, and one on the feet!

This narrative brings me to Church congregations, to the congregations of the churches of Jesus Christ. My ordination papers in the United Methodist Church were signed by Bishop Hazen G. Werner at Lakeside, Ohio, dated June 1959. One ought to learn something about the Church in 57 years! So this is part of what I think I have learned. First, over all, the people of the various congregations and the “larger Church” have probably treated us as well or better than we expect. We, in turn, have tried to do our best. There have been times when things might have gone better, but so things go. The most important lesson I have sought to learn about each and all of these congregations is that the “two step” is not a winning or fruitful path for growth and well being for the good people of Christian congregations. The “two step” approach might also be called the “fitful plan,” or the “little of this and a little of that plan.” To be expedient over and over again may not achieve the results we hope and pray may come about. Indeed, “toes” may be broken. Rather, the growth plan that will more likely be productive is the “full-time faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ around the clock and through the years” plan. The “two step” fitful way will prove useless because starting over again time after time is discouraging. Personally, I can say, “I have been there.” So, the question becomes “How can we all work together, sharing all of our various talents and at the same time working with our pastor. The pastor is very important, but Hopewell Church has been served by scores of pastors over a period of 170 years. The theme is praying and sharing and working together with an absolute minimum of “broken toes.”

Allow me to illustrate. In about 1966 Irma and I, along with two other clergy couples, attended a National Convocation on Worship held in St. Louis. The trip out was so much fun and the Convocation was great, but little of the “new stuff” is of value today.

So, how can we all work together, share our ideas, questions, and talents without being “two step”? How can we avoid being self-satisfied and ingrown while reaching out locally and in mission beyond? Perhaps much more meaningful prayer and fellowship together (first) is needed – that before fitful starts.

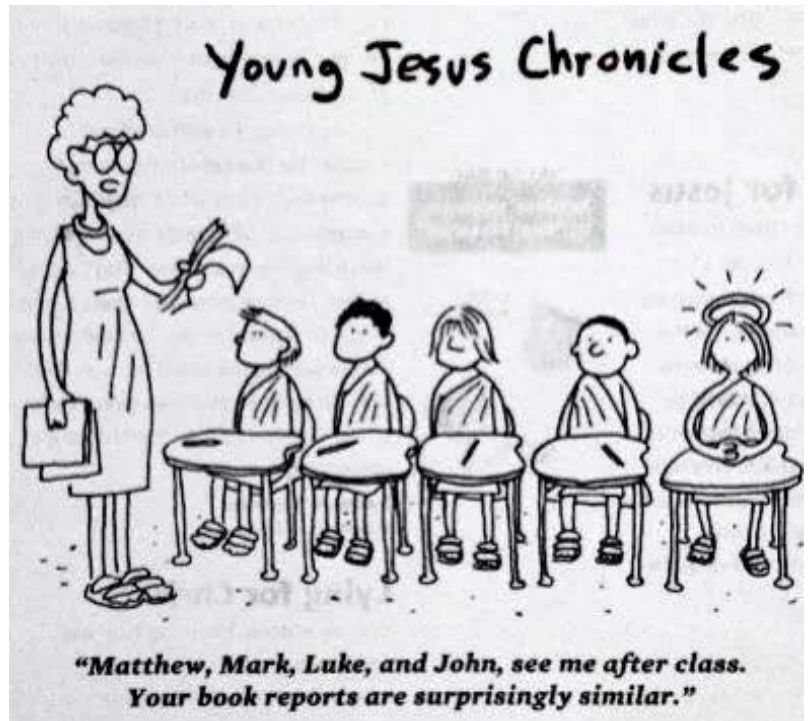
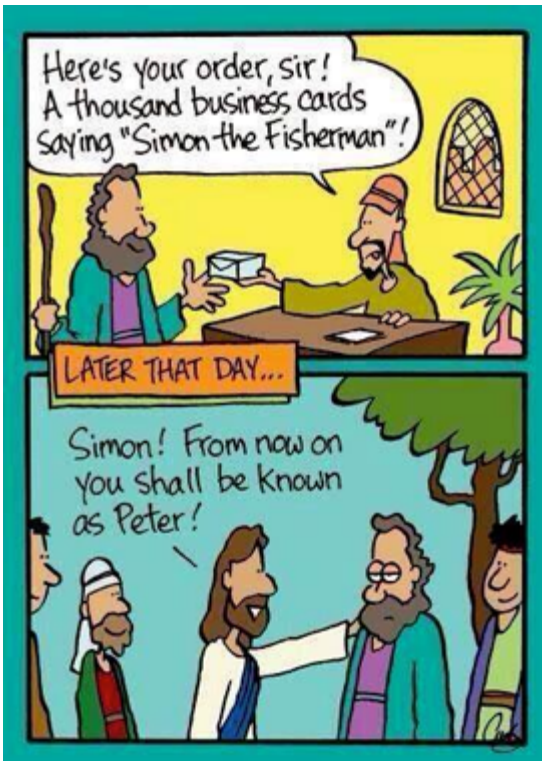
Now to the matter of church attendance. Many of our churches will average 50% or less (of members and constituents) in worship each Sunday morning. All of us need to examine our hearts with regard to worship and study attendance. There are reasons for persons being absent from worship. I do not have the right to question why persons are not present in worship. I can only say that when worship and study attendance is low, that will contribute to the “two step” or fitful life of any congregation. There can be no other conclusion. We are missing what you or we have to offer. We are then part and not whole.

So, now I have reflected, and you have read and thought. Perhaps you have thought, “What on earth is he saying?” I am saying that having preached 2500 or more sermons (many not all that effective) and married 450 couples (many of them still together after 45 to 50 years) and

conducting 450 funerals, I can only hope and pray that I did something helpful and meaningful – something beyond “two step” and fitful. In my ministry I think part of that “beyond” was pastoral care in nature as that is what I found fruitful.

Now to review and conclude, every Christian congregation needs a solid, sustained, steady ministry. It is probably not enough to simply say, “we have been here for years.” How faithful have we been? How caring have we been? How loving have we been? Have we been thoughtful, caring and loving “dancers” with a minimum of broken toes doing a maximum of good? Hopewell United Methodist Church has a great group of folks – some for 60 or 70 years, and others more recent.

Together, if we care enough to really “come together” we can avoid the “two step” broken toes of up and down and round about fitful starts and become the most amazing group of Christians we can become. Keep your eye on the ball; don’t swing at a bad pitch. Pray together, learn together, fellowship together, worship often together, and share honest thoughts together. And, by the way, I probably should, if briefly, do that two-step with my girl!



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<http://3riversumc.org>



The Gourley family became official members of Hopewell UMC on June 26. Pastor Lee welcomed (from left) Bitsi, Leah, Natalie, Mickey, Jessica, Phyllis, and Mick. Afterwards (right photo), the Gourleys hosted the congregation for lunch at Bitsi and Mickey's home on Hopewell Road.



John Rensel, South Vernon UMC, blessed the Hopewell congregation as he praised God in music on June 5.





Hopewell UMC received a certificate of congratulations from the Ohio House of Representatives on the occasion of the church building centennial, which was April 30, 2016.

The Scioto Ridge Boys gospel quartet will sing at Hopewell UMC on Sunday, September 11. Please invite friends and neighbors to attend.

Singing the promise of God's hope and love

Scioto Ridge Boys
Gospel Concert

Mark Snyder Barry Weaver Bob Houston Bob Joseph

Hopewell United
Methodist Church
20220 Hopewell Road
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Sunday, September 11, 2016
3 PM
Refreshments following the concert

Hopewell 4-H Youth at the 2016 Knox County Fair

At right, Leah Gourley responds to judge's questions in her goat showmanship class. Proud Grandpa Mick Gourley watches in the background to the right.

Below, Jesse Gourley "sets up" her goat squarely in her showmanship class.



At right, Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe's cake decorating project merited multiple ribbons. (Photo taken through a wire fence.)

Congratulations to our youth for what they have accomplished and learned!

