

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.*

June - July 2017

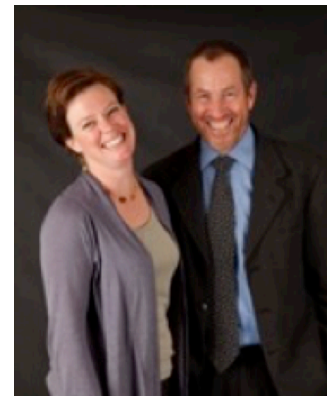
Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

The Father's Abiding Presence

The Bible is a love story, of God's love for his creation. The Bible is a story of lost love, of betrayal. It is a story of love wooing an unfaithful partner. Finally, it is a story of triumphant love. The scope of this story is too great to capture in a short essay, but perhaps a few highlights might suffice to give us a taste of God's all-encompassing love.

When I think of the stories in the Bible, I am amazed at the eternal scope of God and the eternal scope of love, for "God is love." (1 John 4:8b). I am amazed at the constancy of God's love for his creation. It opens with the story of the Spirit of God hovering over the waters like a dove. His first command was to bring about light. Not the light of the sun, nor the light of the moon, nor the light of the stars as majestic, sublime, and beautiful as these might be. God's first command was to create the light of man. As John 1:4-5 tells us, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Love begins life, and love will be there when all else ends. Paul writes, "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13) The last book of the Bible, the Apocalypse of John, or as it is called, the book of Revelation, is a story of the triumph of love against all that rages against it. To quote John 1:5 again, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." The Bible truly is a love story.

As a love story, it begins with majestic hopes. And like many a love story, it is also about love lost. In the creation story, the pinnacle of God's creation is man. Man, as the pinnacle of God's creation, is elegantly described this way, "Then God said, 'Let us make man after our own image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Do you hear the work of love in this? No other aspect of creation is described in this way. God did not create granite after his own image, or the oceans, or the sky and all that is contained therein. He did not create the lions, tigers, and bears, ('Oh my!') after his own image. Nor did he create pigs, cows and sheep after his image. The mighty oak, the majestic beech, the fields of waving grain were not made in his image either. Even the angels are not



described in this way. Only you and I were created in the image of God. Such love, such wondrous love, that God would make us after himself!

Do you see the lofty heights of God's love? If only we had been satisfied with God's love. We were not, and from that lofty height we fell. Our father Adam and our mother Eve fell. God's heart felt the hurt of betrayal. He had given everything to us and we chose an empty promise, the serpent's promise, that their joy--our joy--would increase if we knew good from evil. Instead, we lost our joy, our love, our bliss. We were suddenly not as whole as we once were. We became broken, and God gave us over to the lusts of our hearts. All because we "exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..." (Romans 1:25).

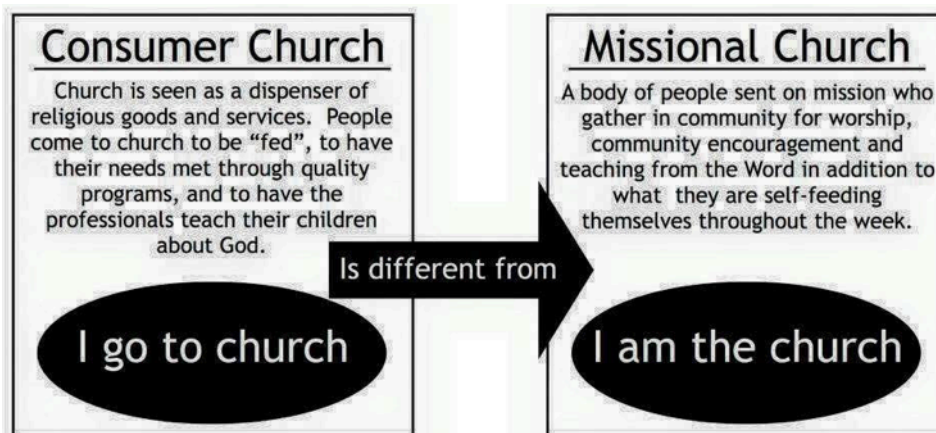
But this is not the end of the story. If God can make creation out of nothing, he can certainly restore love to his creation. Why, becomes the question, does he not do it now and put all sinfulness away? Habakkuk asks, "Thou who art of purer eyes than to behold evil and canst not look on wrong, why dost thou look on faithless men, and art silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?" This question has been with people of faith for an exceeding long time. I believe the answer lies in the character of God.

So, what is God's character? What we know of God's character comes through the testimony of scripture. We know that God is faithful to his promises. We know that he defends his creation; he rescues the poor and the weak. We know that nothing happens without his permission. We know that he is just. And we know that his motivation in all things is love, for he is love.

It is love that answers Habakkuk's question. Paul, inspired by the Spirit of God, writes, "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, hopes all things, believes all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7) It is for love that God "consigned all men to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all." (Rom. 11:32) It is out of God's steadfast love, that he does not break a bruised reed nor quench a dimly burning wick (Isa. 42:3).

It is God who, through his great love for us, sent his Son. It is the Son who, out of his great love for his brothers and sisters, endured the humiliation of being arrested, the agony of torture, the shame of the cross, and finally death itself. It is the Father and the Son who, out of great love for us, send us the Spirit that we might abide in love.

Finally, it is the love of God that brings about the restoration of his creation at the end of time. This love has eternally abided with creation. This love abides with purpose, for the "revealing of the sons of God."



Register to Become an Organ Donor

During the May 7 worship service, the Hopewell Nursing Ministry sponsored a ministry message about saving and extending lives. About 155,000 patients are waiting for organ transplants, while only 35,000 received the needed organs last year, according to Lauren Stevens, Community Outreach/Partnership Coordinator for Lifeline of Ohio. Large numbers of registered donors are needed because only 1 in 100 people die in such a manner that eye, organ, and tissue can be harvested.

Lauren (*left, in the photo*) displayed a colorful quilt, one of many that have been crafted, with personalized squares that honor the lives of organ donors.



Jamie Nesbitt (*right*) offered her personal story: When she was 1½, her father, John Nesbitt, received a kidney transplant that extended his life. Although he later needed a second transplant, which failed, she treasures the memories of his presence at her graduation and marriage.

Anyone at any age can be an organ donor, and it's easy to register. More information is available at <https://lifelineofohio.org>.

When I Say I Am a Christian

When I say I am a Christian,
I'm not shouting I'm clean living.
I'm whispering I was lost
But now I'm found and forgiven.

When I say I am a Christian,
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say I am a Christian,
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say that I am a Christian,
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say I am a Christian,
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say I am a Christian,
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say I am a Christian,
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's grace somehow.

-- Carol Wimmer (shared by
Eleanor Doup)

Elaine Farie Featured for Her Nursing Career

During National Nurses Week, Elaine Farie was featured in several newspapers in Coshocton County. That's where she continues to train potential home-health aides, host monthly wellness checks and flu clinics at the Coshocton Senior Center, and complete cognitive assessments for patients going into long-term healthcare. During her 54-year nursing career, the papers note, Elaine has seen many changes to the profession, but she continues to apply one lesson she learned at St. Francis School of Nursing (Columbus)—“to care for the whole person, their heart, their soul, their family.”

For your service to humankind, we salute you, Elaine—and all the Hopewell nurses: Donna Spinks, Audra Cubie, and Donna Lybarger! –*photo by Josie Sellers, Coshocton Beacon Today*



UMW Report - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW met at the home of Eleanor Doup and Joan Coon on Wednesday, May 10. Eleanor recited the blessing for the eight members before lunch. At the previous (April 12) meeting, Joan and Eleanor had requested the ladies to come wearing their Easter bonnets. As you can tell from the photo, we had a great time.



Barb Butler started the meeting and the secretary and treasury report was given. Barb read thank you notes from Ellen Kaiser and Bitsi Gourley after their hospital stays. Barb also told the group that the Gambier Epworth church has invited the Hopewell ladies to a "Mothers Tea," on Sunday, May 21st after 12 PM. Flowers are to be given on Mother's Day Sunday to the mother that has the most children, the youngest mother, and all mothers over 80.

The UMW family picnic will be Tuesday, June 13 at 6 PM in the Gambier municipal park shelter. Beverages and tableware will be provided. Everyone is to bring a covered dish and silent auction items.

Jean Riley told the group that she attended the "Town Meeting" in Mt. Vernon on the drug situation that has been a problem for a long time. Jean said that even the smallest information that you have could be of great help to the police department. Jean has been involved in the community for many years. She has worked alongside hospice and New Directions. She was a hospital volunteer and worked as an assistant to the Presbyterian nursery school, among many other servant roles. The group is collected personal items for New Directions. Ellen Kaiser and Virginia Skinner adjourned the meeting.

A lovely reading called "Which Loved Best" was read by Eleanor Doup. Joan Coon read scriptures from Exodus 20 and Hebrews 12. She also read to the group readings called "Mothers" and "da Vinci's Chalice." The next meeting will be in July hosted by Jean Riley and Ellen Kaiser.

Trustees Report - John Wolfe and Bill Lawhon contributed to this report

Significant changes at Hopewell UMC are not always obvious.

Some Trustee-led infrastructure projects will improve comfort, visibility, and safety:

- During the week of June 5, a natural gas heating and cooling system will be installed—a cleaner, more efficient unit than the current fuel oil furnace. Mark Ramser (Ohio Cumberland Gas Company) generously donated the materials and labor for running the gas line under two roads to the church. The savings are estimated to be at least \$8,000.
- Mickey Gourley and John Wolfe are working with an electrician to upgrade electrical service to 200 amps, add electrical outlets, and improve lighting.

In the cemetery behind and beside the church, the Lawhon family placed flags on the graves of deceased veterans in time for Memorial Day. Also, Seth Lawhon now has an epoxy to repair more of the older, broken headstones. - photo by Erin Lawhon



Adam &
Pete
Lawhon

HUMC Finance Report

– Barb Butler, Treasurer

Balances

as of April 30, 2017

General Fund	\$58,833.34
Building Maintenance Fund	\$19,604.90
Centennial Capital Campaign Fund	\$33,743.08

Follow Hopewell UMC

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...on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon



Special Events in June – July...

Tuesday, June 13 – UMW Family picnic, 6 PM at Gambier Community Shelter. Table service and drinks are provided. Bring items for silent auction to benefit UMW.

Sunday, June 18 – Completion of the Starting Point fundraiser. Bring baby bottles filled with coins to the Sunday worship service.

Thursday through Sunday, July 6-10 and July 13-16 – MTVarts presents “Bye Bye Birdie” featuring Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe. For times and ticket information... <https://www.mtvarts.com/index.php/upcoming-events/63-bye-bye-birdie>

Birthdays

June

- 10 Erin Lawhon
- 20 Greg Yashnyk
- 24 Lee Cubie
- 29 Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe

July

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



A Tribute to Veterans Buried in Hopewell Cemetery –by Marsha Clayborne

Memorial Day is a time for remembrance of those who died in service to our country. We would like to also honor those who have served. During the American Revolutionary War, the United States Military District was a land tract in central Ohio that was established by Congress to compensate veterans of the American Revolutionary War for their service. The tract contains 2,539,110 acres in Noble, Guernsey, Tuscarawas, Muskingum, Coshocton, Holmes, Licking, Knox, Franklin, Delaware, Morrow, and Marion counties. The congress had little money to pay the soldiers who fought for independence. They made promises of land to induce army enlistment. By resolutions of September 16 and 18, 1776, and August 12, September 22, and October 3, 1780, they proposed to give land to each officer or enlisted soldier continuously to serve in the United States Army until the close of the war, or until discharged, or to the representatives of those slain by the enemy.

I have no official record of those who, from the Revolutionary War era, are buried here, so I apologize if I may have omitted someone's name. We honor of those who served in the war and thank you for serving our country.

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

George Lawrence

Civil War (1861-1865)

Joseph McMahan
Andrew Jacobs
Daniel Hopkins
William Phillip Smith
Jonathan Stewart
Paul Cantrell
Unknown (2)

Spanish-American War (1898)

Burr A. Wyant

World War I (1917-1918)

Walter Mossholder
William Walker (?)

World War II (1941-1945)

Foster A. Antill
Robert E. Steinmetz
William K. Riley
Floyd G. Steinmetz
Jean Steinmetz
Stanley Lahmon
Robert Miles Purdy
Alva Steinmetz
Mary Steinmetz

Korean War (1950-1953)

Mark Smith

Vietnam War (1965-1975)

James A. Yusko
Robert W. Erow
Robert Bruce Purdy



[Ed. note: As the Lawhon family was placing flags on graves, they found additional grave markers for veterans not included in written records. Those names have been included in the list above.

Also, Bill Lawhon is convinced that one or more American Revolutionary War Veterans are buried in Hopewell cemetery, although their headstones have deteriorated beyond recognition. Assuming that to be true, Bill notes there are veterans from every major American conflict buried here.

He further observes that the 25 veterans buried in Hopewell cemetery represent a remarkable 33% of all (75) burials here.

Thank you, Marsha, Bill and grandsons for your wonderful, patriotic efforts.]

Hopewell in Photos



During Holy Week, Don Newland organized the traditional 'simple meal' for Maundy Thursday.



"He is risen, indeed!" Jann Page of South Vernon captured this view at the HUMC Easter sunrise service.



Happy workers prepared for hungry CES guests at the Memorial Theater of April 10. Thanks to Barb Butler who organized this fundraiser for the umpteenth year.



On May 7, the altar was beautifully bedecked with flowers in memory of Ruth Steinmetz, who passed away just days after her 100th birthday.



After cleaning and polishing on Work Day, May 6, more happy workers enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

Barb Butler shared this view of Hopewell cemetery after Bill Lawhon and grandsons placed flags at the graves of war veterans.

