

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.*

December 2017 – January 2018

Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

Apocalyptic Faith

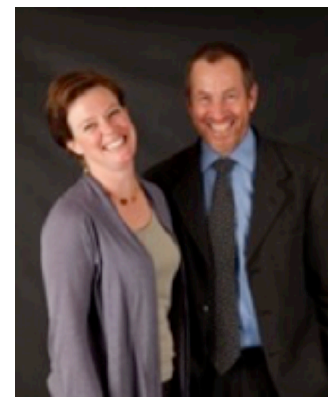
We are fast approaching the season of Advent. Advent marks the beginning of the new year in the church calendar. You could say that December 2nd is New Year's Eve in the church. The season of Advent celebrates the end of this age and the establishment of the new age. The rest of the church calendar is an explanation of how God is working out the end of this age and the establishment of the new age. This description of our faith is named apocalyptic, coming from the word apocalypse.

Apocalypse is derived from two Greek words, *apo*, a prefix meaning, 'un', and *kaluptein*, a verb meaning 'to cover.' Put together they simply mean to uncover. You could use the word to describe the action of pulling the curtains back to *uncover* or *apocalypse* the window and the view of the outside world. Apocalypse is often translated with the word 'reveal,' as in the book of 'The Revelation to John.' It is because of this, the book of 'The Revelation to John,' that the word apocalypse is often associated with calamitous events and with the Christian faith.

So, what does it mean that our faith, the Christian faith, is apocalyptic? Let me explain by describing the basic aspects of apocalyptic faith. There are five major themes. The first, is that there is a fundamental difference between the forces of evil and God. This is expressed by the prophet Isaiah when he writes, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD." (Isaiah 55:8) This captures the calamity of the Fall in the garden of Eden. All of humanity's thoughts and ways are no longer of God but out of our own reasoning. This does not mean that we are unable to do good but that our good is not whole, it is broken. For this reason, Paul appeals to us, "Do not be conformed to this world (or age), but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..." (Romans 12:2a)

The second aspect of Apocalyptic Faith is Two Ages. There is this age, the age that is ruled by the forces of evil and a fallen mankind, and the age to come that is ruled by God and by a redeemed mankind. This is what the disciples are referring to when they ask Jesus, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and the *close of the age*." (Matthew 24:3b) And also, Peter, seeking to encourage the young church, quotes from Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22, writes, "But according to this promise we wait for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." (2 Peter 3:13)

Imminent Judgment is the third aspect of an Apocalyptic Faith. "But of that day or of that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch, for you do not know when the time will come" (Mark 13:32-33) is the advice Jesus gives his disciples in describing the unexpected nature of God's coming judgment. So are the three parables of Matthew chapter twenty-five; the parables of the five wise and five foolish virgins, the three servants who were entrusted with their master's money, and the parable of the sheep and the goats.



This next aspect of Apocalyptic Faith, may be the most difficult to understand. It is called the Already-and-Not Yet. The Already refers to the work of Jesus Christ in our salvation, the forgiveness of our sin. The Not Yet refers to the completion of the work that the Father begins in Christ in completely transforming us into the likeness of Jesus. This is Paul's quest, that he, "may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, *becoming like him*, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Philippians. 3:10-11) The Not Yet is clearly expressed by Paul in the very next verse, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." (Phil. 3:12) It is this struggle between the rule of this age in our lives and the awakening of the new age that is so much of the New Testament. It is also something that we know of in our own personal lives. This Already-Not Yet is that struggle with temptation. This push and pull of wanting to do God's will versus doing our own will is described by the author of Hebrews this way, "In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." (Heb. 12:4)

The final aspect of Apocalyptic Faith is a Final Climactic Event. We talk about this as the creation of the new age. John the Revelator records this in his Apocalypse to John. It is summed up quite neatly in chapter twenty-one. "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. (The sea represents the separation of man from God.) 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; and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'" (Revelation 21:1-4)

The beginning of the close of this age of sin, misery, death and dying begins this way, "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary...." (Luke 1:26-27) You know the rest of the story! Merry Christmas, because God has uncovered his plan for you and creation.

United Methodist Women Report - *Marsha Clayborne, Secretary*

The UMW met on October 10 at Donatos Pizza for lunch. Beverly Lahmon and Virginia Skinner were the hosts to the eight members. Joan Coon blessed the meal. Barb Butler started the meeting for discussion with the group for UMW Sunday on October 29. Everyone was assigned a part, and Annika Wolfe will provide special music, accompanied by her father John Wolfe.

The UMW donated \$25 for the CROP Walk on October 15. The walkers raised almost \$300 to represent Hopewell United Methodist Church in Knox county. Thanks to all for your donations and participation.

Joan Coon reminded the members and the church to start collecting for the winter drive. This includes socks, scarves, hats, blankets, and throws for the needy.

Barb asked the group where we could go for the November church family dinner since Ada Mullet sold her property. The group voted to go to Watts Restaurant in Utica, Ohio. The date will be Tuesday, November 7 at 6 PM. The UMW will pay for the meal for the pastor and his wife.

Trim-a-tree will be Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 PM at the church.

Ellen Kaiser adjourned the meeting.

Bev started the program with devotions from Psalm 62:5-8, God's World. She also read "Rules for Happiness" and "Let Me Give." A Halloween pumpkin story and "A Small Country Church" message were also read.

The next meeting will be at The Alcove on Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30 AM.



A Lot of Nuts – by Don Newland

The year that we retired and were living in our own new little house in Gambier, we would walk out on the nearby country roads for exercise. That year happened to be a record year for production by black walnut trees so we, being “newly poor,” decided to gather them and do all that work to use the nuts that nature provided. Now there was recently an article in the newspaper relative to the various years of high production of black walnuts by those trees. In short, there are “on” and “off” years of production. The year we retired was a banner year, and 2017 has been another year of heavy production. Evidence of this is apparent when we drive out to and around Hopewell UMC, and black walnuts can be seen on the road in many places.

In the “old days,” those who came before us went to all of that trouble to hull those nuts for the “treasure” of having a black walnut cake or such—it was a tough job, but that cake was so good, and worth the expenditure of time. It seems to me that there is a parallel here with regards to our church community. To outside observers some of us are a bunch of “nuts.” Why would we who claim the Lord and persist in attending our church go to all of that trouble? Production is indeed uneven—there are years of almost no production along with some years of great satisfaction and reward. In short, we may appear to be “a bunch of nuts.”

Yet, it may be said that only we experience how sweet the “cake” really is. Speaking personally, Irma and I have more recently experienced the reward of the “nuts” we seem to be. Thank you all for your prayers, visits, cards, food, and great kindness toward us in our time of difficulty. At least five churches, along with many individual Christian persons, have included us in those sorts of fruits. We just need more laborers out in the field so that others can share in this great reward!

IF YOU THINK GOD CAN'T USE YOU, REMEMBER...

Noah was a drunk * Abraham was too old * Isaac was a daydreamer * Jacob was a liar * Leah was ugly * Joseph was abused * Moses had a stuttering problem * Gideon was afraid * Sampson was a womanizer * Rahab was a prostitute * Jeremiah and Timothy were too young * David had an affair and was a murderer * Elijah was suicidal * Isaiah preached naked * Jonah ran from God * Naomi was a widow * Job went bankrupt * John the Baptist ate bugs * Peter denied Christ * The Disciples fell asleep while praying * Martha worried about everything * The Samaritan woman was divorced * Zaccheus was too small * Paul was too religious * Timothy had an ulcer * and Lazarus was dead

In Case of Snow or Ice...

On Sunday mornings, if a snow emergency is announced for Knox County, the church service cancellation policy is:

Level 1: Church services will be held on the normal schedule. Use your own judgment on whether to come to church. If you decide to travel, please use caution.

Level 2 or 3: Sunday school and Worship service will be cancelled.



Hopewell's Foundation Families – *The McMahon Family* – by Marsha Clayborne

[Ed. note: This article is another result of Marsha's research about families who are memorialized in the beautiful stained glass windows at Hopewell Church.]

Joseph McMahon was born on July 29, 1844, in College Township to John and Margaret McMahon. He married Eliza Jolly in 1867. He was a farmer and lived two miles southeast of Gambier. They had eight children: Harry, Fannie, Josie, Helen, Alice, William Ray, James, and Edith. Joseph was a Civil War veteran in Company C, 32nd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was a member of the Joe Hooker Post G.A.R (Grand Army of the Republic). He was in the service a year and received honorable discharge. He died on May 29, 1896, and Eliza on January 28, 1929. They are buried in Hopewell Cemetery.



Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now. – Saint Teresa of Avila

Knox County CROP Walk

On Sunday, October 15, walkers gathered at Riverside Park to begin the annual CROP Walk to end hunger. Ten churches raised \$5,603, including \$292 collected by the nine walkers from Hopewell UMC.



(l. to r.) HUMC walkers: Emily Waters (friend of Annika), The Wolfe Family (Annika, John, Rylanne, Erika), Marsha Clayborne, Don Newland, and Mike and Mary Stevens. Photo and info courtesy of John Wolfe.



Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe Named 2018 Distinguished Young Woman of Knox County

– condensed from Knox Pages,
http://www.knoxpages.com/news/annika-kanuckel-wolfe-named-distinguished-young-woman-of-knox-county/article_24969760-cd73-11e7-8604-4f0c99be3b8b.html

When Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe penned her 'Be Your Best Self' essay [found on page 7], there was likely only a glimmer of a thought to where those words would lead her.

But on Saturday night [November 18], Kanuckel-Wolfe put her best self forward and was named the 2018 Distinguished Young Woman of Knox County.

Kanuckel-Wolfe, a senior at Mount Vernon High School, won the Be Your Best Self Award, and the interview, talent, and self-expression portions [four of the six categories] of the competition.

During the self-expression segment of the night, Kanuckel-Wolfe discussed courage. "When many of us think of courage, we think of valiant acts of bravery seemingly unattainable to the average person," Kanuckel-Wolfe said. "While these are very admirable, even the smallest act of courage – such as speaking out for someone whose voice is being stifled – can make a world of difference."

Kanuckel-Wolfe will return to the stage in February to compete in the Distinguished Young Women of Ohio program.

[Ed. note: Congratulations, Annika, to you, your family, and to ALL who have helped shape and encourage you! Best wishes as you carry your talents and message to the February competition.]



Follow Hopewell UMC

...on the Web: www.mvhopewellumc.org

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

Special Events in December – January:

Sunday, December 3 – Trim-a-Tree, 5:00 PM

Tuesday, December 12 – UMW meeting, 11:30 AM

Birthdays

December

- 3 Jessie Gourley
- 7 Joan Coon
- 7 Donna Spinks
- 7 Joe Beran
- 17 Jack Laymon

January

- 18 Joe Laymon

Hopewell Church Family Photos...



Youth Yak at Hopewell UMC is always a time to expect the unknown. Pastor Lee called on Wyatt Laymon to help empty the leather case on Sunday, October 8.



Could it be the pastor in Winnie the Pooh clothing? Yes, it could! On November 5, Pastor Lee's Youth Yak captivated the attention of 15 young listeners...and quite a few older ones, too.



UMW Sunday – Women of the church led the service on Sunday, Oct. 29. (Above) Ellen Kaiser presents part of the message. Speakers included (left to right) Amy Yashnik, Marsha Clayborne, Bev Lahmon, Eleanor Doup (behind Ellen), and Barb Butler.



UMW presented flowers to Jean Riley and Eleanor Doup for their long-time service to the group. Jean joined Women's Society of Christian Service (now UMW) in 10/26/1950.



Marsha Clayborne presented the Youth Yak at this annual, traditional worship service.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”



Being My Best Self – Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe's award winning essay

We should all strive to be our best selves. It is not always easy; being your best self takes constant dedication. In my personal experience, it means looking inside myself, admitting my faults, and making a conscious effort to grow and change for the better. To be my best self is to consider not only how the world sees me, but how I see myself. I strive to be a person that I can be proud of, and that my family can be proud of as well.

I am not proud to admit that I went through a period of time not very long ago in which I did not allow myself to reach my full potential. Upon entering high school, I became wrapped up in the idea of what others thought of me, and I allowed that to dictate my actions. I let the fear of making a mistake or being judged stifle my inner voice.

It is during times like these that I turn to my family, friends, and God for guidance. In my friends, I am able to find confidence and joy. For a long time, I was afraid to put myself out there because I did not think anyone would *want* to get to know me. Having such wonderful and supportive friends has helped me to see that if I just have fun being my true self, that I will draw good people into my life. My friends have shown me that my true self is not something to be ashamed of, but something to celebrate. In my family, I have found a place of comfort and love. It is a truly amazing feeling to know that I always have a support group to lean on when I am feeling troubled. The women in my family inspire me to be independent, caring, and selfless. Just as my family has provided me with a strong foundation, I strive to serve as that inspiration to the next generation. By praying to God and giving everything to Him-my worries and my accomplishments-I am able to grow as a person. It is hard sometimes to trust in His plan for my life, but I always find in the end that everything is part of a bigger picture. I know that no matter what may happen on Earth, I have someone looking out for me who will never fail.

To me, being my best self means standing my ground in situations where I feel pressured to go against what I believe to be right. It means rejecting the idea that in order to fit in with my peers, I have to compromise my moral standards. I hold myself accountable to all of the people in my life. For example, before making a decision, I like to think: *Would I be okay with my grandma knowing that I did this? Would she be proud, or would she be disappointed?* I make an effort to be aware of how my actions affect others. By using this method and keeping myself in check, I am able to live with a clear and free conscience.

It is important to always pay attention to how those around me are feeling. Being kind to others and reaching out to them when they are feeling low is something I try to do every day. When I am not feeling well myself, it helps me to think of others. By looking for the best in them and helping them to see that in themselves, I find that it brings me just as much joy. By taking my focus away from my own problems and genuinely taking an interest in others, I feel that I am living the way that I am truly meant to; and that is what being my best self means to me.

**Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
To all the souls you can,
In every place you can,
At all the times you can,
With all the zeal you can,
As long as you ever can.**

John Wesley



2017 Charge Conference Notes – Bob Joseph, Recording Secretary

The charge conference was held collectively with other Three Rivers District churches at Mulberry Street UMC on November 5. Present from Hopewell UMC were Lee Cubie, Elaine Farie, Barb Butler, Bill Lawhon, and Linda and Bob Joseph.

To open the session, Rev. Dr. Brad Call, district superintendent, led the group in worship. He noted that the East Ohio Conference theme is "Bearing Fruits That Last – Called, Committed, Connected." This year's emphasis is "Called"—we are called to live as Christians and to testify.

During a time of sharing church goals, Pastor Lee noted that, as evidence of an intentional evangelism plan, 1) Hopewell hosted a gospel music concert (Scioto Ridge Boys) for the community on Nov. 5 and 2) there were 15 youth in church on this date.

Rev. Dr. Call conducted the business meeting during which Hopewell church representatives...

Approved compensation unanimously for Pastor Lee Cubie

Total cash salary - \$12,257 each church; Total plan compensation - \$15,142

Approved committee leadership positions:

Lay Leader	Ellen Kaiser
Church Council	Bill Lawhon
PPRC	Elaine Farie
Trustees	Mickey Gourley
Finance	Barb Butler
Audit	Eleanor Doup
Treasurer	Barb Butler
Pianist	Cheryl McCracken
Newsletter Editor	Bob & Linda Joseph
UMW President	Barb Butler
UMW Treasurer	Marsha Clayborne

Approved the 2018 budget for Hopewell:

\$5,736	Conference and District Apportionments
\$15,142	Ministry Support
\$13,225	Other Local Church Expenses
\$34,103	Total

Approved goals as written: *(see text box at right)*.

The video "Chuck Knows Church: The Committee" was shown. The video's theme was 'revitalizing a church in a changed/changing community to reflect the community.' Key points were 1) question taboos and traditions and 2) take church and God to the community, rather than waiting for the community to come to the church.

<https://chuckknowschurch.com>

2018 Goals - The goals for making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for Hopewell UMC are:

- Maintain church visibility in the community with publicity regarding worship and activities.
- A definite youth involvement plan (with their parents included).
- Strengthen bible study opportunities with suggestions for topics from the congregation.

Hopefully Hopewell UMC meets these goals:

- By continuing to maintain a steadfast attitude of inclusion to all our neighbors. Our bi-monthly newsletter is given to neighbors to make them aware of church activities.
- By prayer, that our goals will reach the hearts of our congregation and those in the community.
- By keeping the Faith that, through Him, All things are possible.