

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.*

February – March 2018

Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

Epiphany

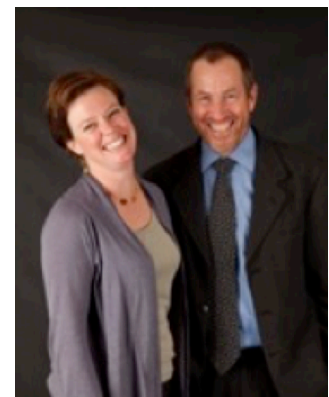
Epiphany comes from two words in Greek. *Epi*, which means "upon" and *phainoe*, which means "to shine." Put together it means "to shine upon." We use epiphany in the Christian calendar to celebrate the revealing of Jesus Christ. Paul, in his letter to the church in Colossae, celebrates the epiphany of Jesus in these words,

¹⁵"He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. *Col. 1:15-20*

In this passage many aspects of Jesus Christ begin to shine forth upon us. At first blush we may not see anything that involves our humanity. It seems so extraordinarily distant from our daily lives. It is true that the Christ is unique; however, he is human, so let us see how this passage relates to who we are.

To begin, the first phrase, "He is the image of the invisible God..." reminds us of our own creation. In Genesis 1:26, "God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....'" If this is true, and I believe it to be so, then we share this with the Christ. That is, we too are to be the image of the invisible God in creation. No wonder Paul writes, "creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God." (Rom. 8:19) We were created to bear the glory of God and that glory is life itself, and so we were cast out of the garden lest we eat of the tree of life. (Gen. 3:22-24) And so Paul reflecting upon the tragedy of a fallen mankind speaks of creation being "subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope..." (Rom. 8:20) Such a wonder, that God would invest in us his own image, and when we subverted that image, he placed all of creation, which he created "very good" (Gen. 1:31), under the curse of futility (Gen.3:14-19).

The next series of phrases are likewise unique to Christ but also reflect on our uniqueness in



creation. The Psalmist catches this uniqueness when he exclaims, “what is man that thou art mindful of him...?” (Ps. 8:4a) The ‘Preacher’ also catches this uniqueness when he writes, “he has put eternity into man’s mind...” (Eccl. 3:11b) And so as humans we may not be the first born of all creation, but we have been “made a little less than God...” (Ps. 8:5) In other words we are the pinnacle of God’s creation, created on the sixth day. Likewise, Christ’s uniqueness is captured in the phrases, “for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” All things may not have been created in us, but God created all things for us. We were also created to have dominion over all of creation of which we were created to be God’s steward.

These two phrases--“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together”--are for me, the hardest to reconcile with my humanity. It is difficult, because we were not before all things, and all things are not held together by us. What I see as shared, however, is the role of steward. These phrases express in universal and cosmic terms the stewardship of Christ. We participate in that stewardship on a daily and particular level. What I mean by this is, in our day-to-day living God has given us responsibilities. These are our stewardships. ‘He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent’ describes Christ’s unique role in the church. He is unique in that he is the head of the church. He is unique in that he is the first-born from the dead. He is unique in that he is pre-eminent, that is, above all. But we participate with Christ. We participate when we enter into his church as we accept forgiveness. We participate when we bring people into that salvation. We look forward to our participation when we are resurrected. And we participate when we rejoice in our role to lead all of creation in singing the praises of God.

Finally, we are destined to participate with Christ as God’s fullness is perfected in us. It is at that moment when God’s image and likeness are fully restored that we will be able to participate in the complete restoration of all things with God. As the writer of 1st John says, “Beloved, we are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (1st John 3:2)

I would like to conclude with this thought: this season of Epiphany is not only a time to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world; it is also a time to celebrate the appearing of Jesus Christ in our own lives.

P.S., The purpose of this article is to get us to think more highly of our calling in Jesus Christ. It seems we often underestimate our God-given purpose and the scope of our salvation in Christ.

United Methodist Women Report - *Marsha Clayborne, Secretary*

The UMW met at the home of Barb Butler on Tuesday, December 19 at 1 PM. Barb prepared a wonderful lunch and blessed the food for the six members. Barb started the meeting, and the secretary and treasury report was given along with dues and mission collected.

Marsha Clayborne read a thank you card from Eleanor Doup for the flowers she received on UMW Sunday. There are 9 Ultimate Cloths left if anyone needs them for their cleaning. The group also discussed their host month for 2018. Barb read a letter to the group from the UMW Legacy Fund for the celebration of the 150th year in 2019. The members also wanted to help 3-year-old Tripp Heffelfinger, who is receiving chemo for cancer. Bev Lahmon adjourned the meeting. The members played a game called “Pig in a Poke.” The game requires each person to bid on each other’s gift bag. All gift bags were auctioned off and \$40.00 was made for the UMW. The next meeting will be held in March.



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

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

J. (Joseph) B. Smith

The Smith name is a very common name in our society today and also at the Hopewell United Methodist Church years ago. The "Hopewell" Smiths go way back to Joseph B. Smith (1817-1869) who came to this area from Maryland. I am 99% sure with all my research from the library and Barb Butler that Joseph B. is Barb (Smith) Butler's great-great-grandfather. He was born April 23, 1817, and married Mary Brewer March 1, 1841. They had 8 children: Jacob, Ann, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Malinda, Daniel, and Susan. Daniel was born in 1857 and married Rosetta Breece and they became the parents to Joseph Clyde Smith. Joseph Clyde and Helen Bennett Smith are the parents of Ralph B. Smith, Barb's father. All the men were engaged in farming as their occupation. All are buried at the Hopewell Cemetery.



The fourth daughter, Mary Smith, married Alva Steinmetz, who was Jean Riley and Eleanor Doup's great-grandfather.

J. (James) Boyd Smith

James Boyd Smith was born March 1, 1881 to John Taylor and Mary Boyd Smith. James and Carolyn McFadden were married in Knox County in 1910. James was a farmer and a World War I veteran. He died in 1925 at the age of 44. Carolyn remarried on June 25, 1927, to Willard Baker. James Boyd Smith is buried in the Hopewell Cemetery along with his parents John Taylor and Mary.



The Origin of "Methodists" -- A UMC.org feature by Andrew J. Schleicher*

Holy Club. Bible Moths. Methodists.

These are just a few of the names people called Charles and John Wesley and those gathered around them before anyone called their group a movement, let alone a church. Charles and John Wesley are considered founders of the Methodist movement that led to what is now The United Methodist Church.

It all began around 1728 with a few men at Oxford University, where Charles was finishing his studies. Charles Wesley had not always been very good at focusing on his studies or his faith. His first year at school was full of diversions like playing cards and enjoying music, theater and dancing. Nevertheless, by his final year, he was ready to devote himself to a more focused method of engaging study and faith.

Charles knew he could not do this on his own. He gathered with others in a small group, a practice common at Oxford in those days.

Originally, the group discussed classical literature, but they eventually moved onto spiritual materials. According to Dale Patterson of the United Methodist Archives and History agency, they would read classical literature during the week, but on weekends, especially Sundays, read works about divinity or theology as we call it today.

Even with these conversations, Charles continued to feel like he was struggling. He reached out to his

brother John for assistance.

"There is no one person I would so willingly have to be the instrument of good to me as you," Charles wrote in a letter to John. "It is owing, in great measure, to somebody's prayers (my mother's [Susanna Wesley's] most likely) that I am come to think as I do; for I cannot tell myself how or why I awoke out of my lethargy, only that it was not long after you went away."

John had been away for a time helping at his father's parish since he had already graduated and was ordained in the Church of England. When he returned to Oxford, where he was also a fellow, he soon assumed leadership of the group and brought to it his organization skills and some initial instruction.

Others started noticing the group. Some called them "Sacramentarians," that is they sought the sacrament of communion frequently. The Wesleys thought it good to have communion at least weekly, though the common thought was monthly was satisfactory.

This was one of the first items to grow out of their meetings. They had to search out communion since no single Protestant congregation offered it every week.

Others called the group "Enthusiasts." Were they religious fanatics of some sort?

"That was an insulting term," says Patterson. "People claiming to be spirit-filled [or enthused] were considered suspicious." The term pointed back to "the wild-eyed people of a century ago," during the English civil war.

Despite that, John Wesley considered himself a "reasonable enthusiast," says Patterson.

"Supererogation-men," was another term applied to this small, but growing, group. Supererogation refers to their desire to go beyond what is typically required by most religious in hopes of winning divine approval.

It was common for the Wesleys and their companions to engage regularly in prayer, fasting (twice a week), giving alms and visiting those in prison. Many of these activities were not even the Wesleys' ideas, though John would check in with the local bishop to ensure there was no problem with their activity.

"These guys are accused of doing too much good," says Ted A. Campbell, professor of Church History at Perkins School of Theology. The supererogation-men nickname was also, Campbell continues, "a veiled accusation of Catholicism." There remained tension in those days between Protestant and Catholic supporters, and the practice of Catholicism was restricted.

The group the Wesleys were a part of engaged in regular Bible study and were then called "Bible-moths." Did they eat their Bibles as a moth may eat their clothes?

They were viewed as "Bible-bigots," because they reprovved others who they thought did not live up to scriptural standards. "A lot of people thought of them as sourpusses," Campbell says.

By the time they were called "The Holy Club," there were actually at least four small groups connected with the growing movement.

"These were all names foisted upon him," Campbell says, "but John Wesley had the habit of taking them onto himself."

It was "Methodist" that eventually stuck. While John Wesley initially did not like the name, he eventually made it his own.

Why did it stick? "It was something people could see," Campbell says.

The initial Holy Club dissipated when the Wesleys and two others went on a mission trip to Georgia. However, many, if not most, of the evolving group went onto ministry.

The Wesleys and their colleagues stuck to their methods upon their return to England and the Methodist movement would spread throughout Great Britain and into the Americas and now the world.

Today, United Methodists pledge in their membership vows to give of their "prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness." Thus, United Methodists continue the active life the Wesleys and their colleagues brought forward.

Our methods may have evolved over the years, but we still seek to follow John and Charles Wesley's desire to live a more holy life.

Andrew J. Schleicher works at United Methodist Communications. Contact him at aschleicher@umcom.org or 615-742-5145.

Finance Committee Report – Barb Butler, Committee Chairman

As we reflect back on the year of 2017 at Hopewell UM Church, several Capital improvements deserve to be recognized. Those being a new sound system, up-grade in the electrical service, a new furnace and air-conditioner. Add to these upgrades the new parking lot and the church bell restoration in 2016 and you have major changes to an already-welcoming church.

The switch from fuel oil to natural gas was made possible by a new gas line provided by a very special donor. The other Capital improvements were funded by the Centennial Capital Campaign to commemorate the Hopewell church building centennial. Many thanks to generous donors to the campaign and to the dedicated, caring trustees who implemented the improvements.

If you are in the neighborhood on any Sunday morning around 9:30 AM, you'll be welcomed by the peals of the beautifully restored church bell which first rang 100 years ago. You will find a new parking lot (just across the road from the church) waiting for you to stop, park and join us.

When you enter the church (winter, spring, summer or fall) you can count on being comfortable. In the winter, the new gas furnace will keep you toasty warm and in the summer the air-conditioning will keep you cool.

Come! Join us. Everyone is always welcome.

Nursing Ministry – Elaine Farie, R.N.

"Outreach" or "Reach-out". Either way you say it, our Nursing Ministry has been "hard to find" lately. Donna, Audra and Elaine have been utilizing our nursing skills lately with family and loved ones. But, hopefully soon-- we will again be checking blood pressures after Sunday services and planning an upcoming educational event. In the meanwhile--visiting the sick and keeping everyone in our prayers is also a "medication that can be healing." God Is The Great Physician.

Pastor-Parish Relations – Elaine Farie, PPR Chairman

Three Rivers District's "Responding to Our Calling" workshop will be held Saturday, January 27, at the Coshocton Roscoe UM Church. Bill Lawhon, Elaine Farie, and hopefully other members of our congregation and of South Vernon UM Church, will be attending as a united group. We look forward to this being a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God's calling for all of us. We will share this with all of you in the near

Birthdays

February

- 1 Don Newland
- 1 Julie Zimmerman
- 9 Shad Bevington
- 11 Brad Coon
- 11 Amy Yashnyk
- 13 Howard Workman
- 18 Leah Gourley
- 20 Donna Lybarger
- 23 Alivia Zimmerman
- 28 Michael Padula

March

- 13 Karolyn Smith
- 14 Joanne Purcell
- 14 Mike Cedoz
- 21 Audra Cubie

Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't need to know the second law of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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www.mvhopewellumc.org

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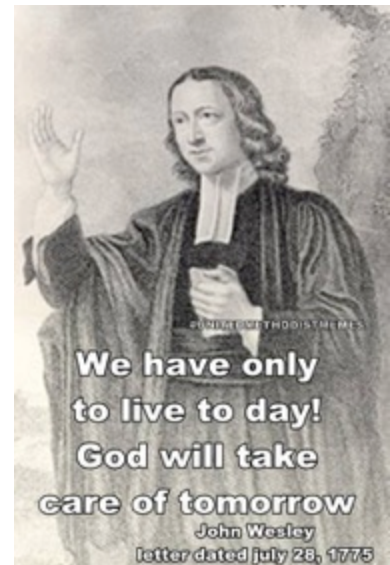
www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon



Eight children and youth 'passed on the light' during Youth Yak with Pastor Lee on Sunday, January 21. The front pew was full!



We're invited...to a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 PM at Batemantown UMC (7974 Yankee St, Fredericktown, OH 43019). Again this year, Pastor Joe Beran has extended the invitation to Hopewell members and friends. Please let Bob/Linda Joseph (614-565-1102) know if you plan to attend.



Barnabas Project Encourages College Students...

For the last two years Hopewell members and friends have cheered on our college students by sending a box of miscellaneous treats. Examples of items sent: Cookies, pens, packaged snacks, restaurant gift cards...any number of surprises that might brighten their day and let them know we are thinking about them.

This year if you would like to encourage our college student, Erin Lawhon, please bring your item(s) to Hopewell church by Sunday, Feb 11. There will be a collection box in the Sunday school room. And if you know of another college student with a connection to Hopewell UMC, please contact Linda Joseph (614-565-1103).

Ed. note: Barnabas ("Son of Encouragement") is mentioned in Acts and several of Paul's letters.



Math phobic's nightmare

**2018 Hopewell UMC
Committee Leadership**

- 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

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

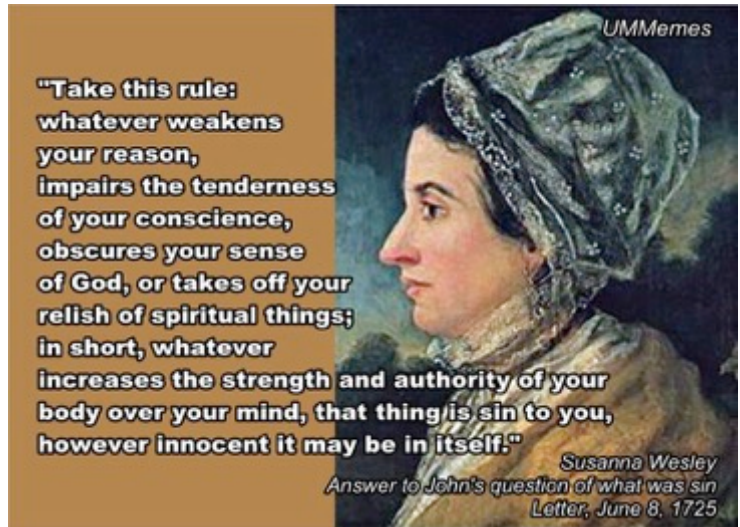
- Maintain church visibility in the community with publicity regarding worship and activities.
- A definite youth involvement plan (with their parents included).
- Strengthen bible study opportunities with suggestions for topics from the congregation.

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.



Pastor Lee and Don Newland give Communion elements to Pete and Erin Lawhon at the Christmas Eve service.



Spiritual Gifts in the Bible



Romans 12	1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 4	Misc. Passages
Exhortation	Administration	Apostle	Celibacy
Giving	Apostle	Evangelism	(1 Cor. 7:7-8)
Leadership	Discernment	Pastor	Hospitality
Mercy	Faith	Prophecy	(1 Peter 4:9-10)
Prophecy	Healings	Teaching	Martyrdom
Service	Helps		(1 Cor. 13:3)
Teaching	Knowledge		Missionary
	Miracles		(Eph. 3:6-8)
	Prophecy		Voluntary Poverty
	Teaching		(1 Cor. 13:3)
	Tongues		
	Interpretation of		
	Tongues		
	Wisdom		