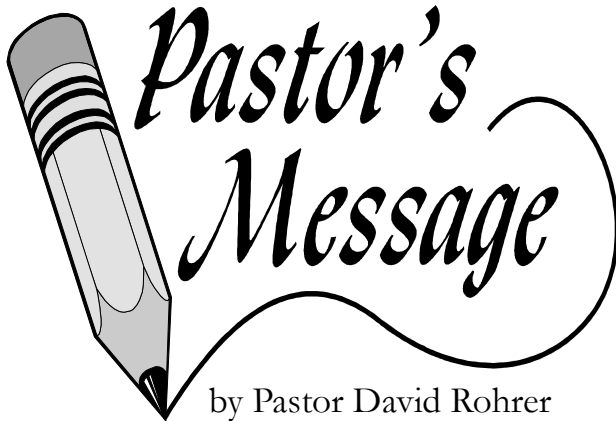


# NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Good News

### Summer Issue/2010

9825 Gore Church Road,  
Logan, Ohio 43138  
Directions: 93 North to  
Gore Church Rd.



by Pastor David Rohrer

**"I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me." (Psalm 77:1)**

When you cry aloud to God, that is, when you pray, who is it that you expect to hear you? That may seem like a really dumb question, and you may answer it by saying "Well, obviously, I expect God to hear me." To which I would respond that that is a correct, but incomplete answer, based on a story that I recently read about N.T. Wright, who is a bishop in the Church of England.

When Wright was a young chaplain at a university, he faced the challenge of how to respond to unbelieving students. Often, they would see him coming and try to wave him off by

saying "I don't believe in God." Their hope was that he wouldn't bother them any more, but Wright would challenge them with the question "Which God don't you believe in?"

Most of the time, the students would describe a bad-tempered, grumpy sort of God who didn't want people having too much fun. Wright's response was "Well, I don't believe in that god, either." And that would give him a chance to discuss who God really is.

Who God really is. That is the essential question for our consideration. It makes a difference who we believe God is. And it makes an even bigger difference who God really is.

Like those students, many people have mistaken ideas of who God is. Some have the same view as those students, that God is a sort of cosmic policeman, making sure we don't break any rules. Others see God as a kind of domestic servant, who is there to take care of our personal needs. Some see him almost as a grandfather. There are all sorts of variations.

So let's look at what the Bible tells us about God:

- God is one. ("Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.") There is only one true God. Yet that one God is also Trinity, understood and experienced as three persons, but one God.
- God is creator and sustainer of everything, including us.
- God is present and active in our world, not distant from us. God is not just "out there" somewhere, but is able and willing to act on our behalf.
- God is relational. He is a personal God who wants to be in a relationship with us.
- God is love. More than anything else, God cares for us, forgives us, and loves us.

It is vitally important that we know who God truly is, because we need to place our trust in something real and trustworthy, not something made up in our minds. And because our ultimate goal is to become like the God we cry out to.

May that God bless you in your pursuit of him.

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## Why I Am a Methodist

Many United Methodists can't tell you why they are who they are, or what they believe that is any different from other parts of the Christian faith. Some say the easiest answer to "why I am a United Methodist" is because I was born into a Methodist family or the church in my hometown became part of The United Methodist Church but here are a few better reasons:



- I fervently believe that all of God's children are chosen and precious in God's sight.
- There is a clear expression of belief in God and all that God does.
- I am challenged to grow, both in faith and in social justice
- Methodism is largely lay-led in each congregation, an institution of all God's people.
- I see in Methodism compassion and continued outreach, to those who are marginalized, poor, hurting, oppressed, or forgotten.
- It is a connected faith, pooling the faith and resources of all of us to achieve the greatest good.
- There is a clear "method" for everything, procedures and organization to address most every issue and situation. The Book of Discipline is our guide.
- There is a clear expression of belief about every social issue, a stand that will instruct and challenge us, and I agree with about 95% of those stands.
- There is a democratic, representative form of government, with all persons having input.
- I have found in this church openness and respect for others, especially those who live and believe differently.
- I have found this church to be a headlight more than a taillight, in leading the way to build a better world.
- No matter how much I grow, the goal is always set higher, because of the sanctifying grace of God leading me and others to become more Christ-like.
- Our denomination crosses cultural and regional and national differences, and I can find someone in the Methodist family nearly anywhere in the world.

John Wesley said in his Sermon on the Mount IV sermon: (Remember that in the 18th century, "men" means all persons.)

*"Let your light so shine"—your lowliness of heart, your gentleness and meekness of wisdom; your serious, weighty concern for the things of eternity, and sorrow for the sins and miseries of men; your earnest desire of universal holiness and full happiness in God, your tender goodwill to all mankind, and fervent love to your supreme benefactor. Endeavour not to conceal this light wherewith God has enlightened your soul, but let it 'shine before men,' before all with whom you are, in the whole tenor of your conversation. Let it shine still more eminently in your actions, in your doing all possible good to all men; and in your suffering for righteousness' sake, while you 'rejoice and are exceeding glad, knowing that great is your reward in heaven.'"*



## Summer Means Vacation Bible School

And VBS takes volunteers to make it happen. The local community has grown to expect Vacation Bible School from New Hope and that's a good thing. Parents that don't attend church are much more likely to send their children to an event that has been a summer pastime for years. What an opportunity for the church to display our best to the public. Please consider volunteering for this summer's Vacation Bible School. See Cheri Bauman for details.



# New Hope Committees Explained: Church Council

**As a member of New Hope, Have you wondered what all these committees did and how one could become a part of them. Each committee has an important role in the functioning of the church.**



The purpose of the church council is to plan a program of nurture, outreach, and witness; implement the plan; provide an administrative infrastructure; align the plan with the mission of the church; evaluate the effectiveness of the plan; act as the administrative agency of the charge conference.

The church council exists to create a strategic plan for a local congregation. Therefore, its primary work is one of leadership rather than management. This is an important distinction to make. Leadership is the visionary, "big picture" work that assesses critically where the congregation is at the present moment, where God is calling it to be in the future, and what resources will be required to move from the current reality into the desired reality. Management is the essential "detail work" that must be accomplished on a daily basis to make the

congregation effective.

The church council model reflects and continues a historic tradition within the Church. Jesus called twelve disciples to be together in the leadership of the early Christian movement (Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16). A church council is greater than the sum of its parts. Gifted individuals-knit together in faith, love, and commitment and empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit-can accomplish much more than any individual. We honor and glorify God best when we become the body of Christ together.-From *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: Church Council, 2005-2008* , p.6-7. Copyright © 2004 by Cokesbury.

The committee is made of representatives from the program ministries of the church. Certain positions are required by the Discipline, but the charge conference can add additional members to make sure the council membership is inclusive.

Members of the committee should include the following persons: the chairperson of the church council; the lay leader; the chairperson and/or a representative of the pastor-parish relations committee; the chairperson and/or a representative of the committee on finance; chairperson and/or a representative of the board of trustees; the church treasurer; a lay member to annual conference; the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Men; the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Women; a representative of the United Methodist Youth; and the pastor.

The church council works cooperatively with the other committees of the church. The council works particularly closely with the four main church committees that are required by the *Book of Discipline* --Pastor-Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance, and Lay Leadership.

## Main Tasks of the Council

- Fills vacancies in lay leadership positions that occur between meetings of the charge conference.
- Leads the visioning and strategic planning process within the church.
- Approves the church budget and ensures that the financial needs of the church are met.
- Makes recommendations for the compensation, benefits, and housing for the pastor.
- Serves as the primary administrative body of the charge conference and oversees the management and programming of the local church.
- Plans and carries out programs that fulfill the congregation's nurturing, outreaching, and witnessing ministries.

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



How ironic Brad suffered a really bad paper cut while reading **Hebrews 4:12** .. the word of God is sharper than a 2-edged sword.

**New Hope  
Worship**



Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Church Service: 10:30 am

Parsonage (740) 394-2705  
Church (740) 934-2580  
[www.newhopelogan.org](http://www.newhopelogan.org)

join **New Hope Logan UMC** on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/newhopeloganUMC](http://www.facebook.com/newhopeloganUMC)

## How Can I Study the Bible?

The Bible is not a typical book; rather it is a collection of sixty-six books written during various times and by different authors. With an ordinary book, you begin on page one and read to the end. But because the Bible is a collection of books, you may approach it differently. Here are a few approaches to reading the Bible:

### Scheduled Bible Reading

Many people follow a Bible-reading schedule, such as one of the schedules listed on the following Web site: [www.bibleplan.org](http://www.bibleplan.org). Imagine that Bible reading is like taking a bus tour of a large city. On a bus tour, you cover a lot of ground without spending too much time in any one place, and that's what scheduled reading should be. The idea is to become familiar with the major themes, stories, and chronology of Scripture. Then, if you want to study a particular passage, you can "get off the bus" and spend focused time in that specific place.

### Devotional Study

Think of the Bible as a long banquet table full of delicious entrees. You may step up to any section and select a morsel of truth. Christian devotional books take this approach. Each day the book includes a meditation on a verse or two to guide your reading.

If you wish to read what the Bible says on certain topics like discouragement, hope, or eternal life, you can purchase a topical index, such as *A Topical Bible Guide* by Bob Phillips. This small book is worth its weight in gold! It contains verses on one hundred topics of interest, and you can pick a few verses to read as a devotional study for the day. Write down the verses on cards to carry with you, or look up and underline the verses in your Bible. You'll be able to remember the verses more clearly when you know where they are found in your Bible.

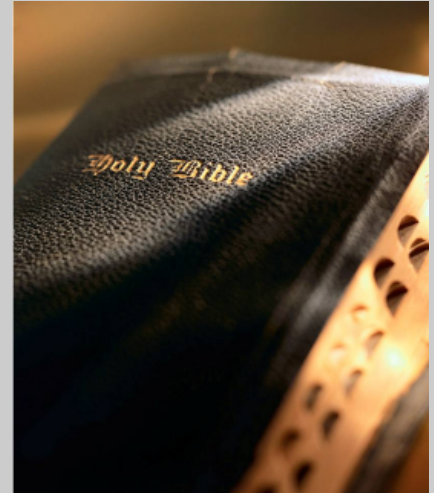
### Book Study

You can also select a certain book of the Bible to study. If you've never read the Bible before, you may want to look in the table of contents and find the book of Mark. Mark is a fast-moving account of Jesus's life and is perhaps the easiest of the four gospels to understand. As you read a selection every day, ask yourself, "What is the author trying to tell me about Jesus in this passage?" Dig for the timeless principles that the Bible is teaching, and apply those principles to your life. For example, in Mark 1:21-28 when Jesus is casting out the evil spirit, He demonstrates His authority over demons. The author is teaching the truth that Jesus is the greatest authority in the physical and the spiritual realms, and you can feel confident in His power.

You may want to jot down the Biblical principles you discover in a notebook or prayer journal. As you examine the verses, ask yourself a few application-type questions.

- Are there any promises that I can claim in these verses?
- Is there a command that I need to obey?
- Are there any sins that I need to avoid?
- Is there an example to follow?
- What encouragement or comfort may I gain?
- What new perspective is God showing me?

God has given us His Word to nourish us through every stage of our Christian development. It is "pure milk" for newborn believers (1 Peter 2:2) and "solid food" for the mature (Hebrews 5:14). You can feed on the Scripture every day for the rest of your life and never exhaust its storehouse of nourishment. May God richly bless your study of His Word.



**New Hope Bible Study**  
Wednesday Evenings @ 7:30 pm.  
This weekly study of the Bible aims not only to increase one's spiritual knowledge, but through discussions of life applications to nurture Christians to become better disciples.

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

***We would love to include your contributions so please submit any comments, articles or photos if you would like to have them included in the next newsletter.  
Email: [newsletter@newhopelogan.org](mailto:newsletter@newhopelogan.org) (or just hand it to Andy Ellinger at church)***