



# *The Grapevine*

**Clarksbury United Methodist Church**  
**15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia    January 2018**  
[www.clarksburyumc.com](http://www.clarksburyumc.com)

**Our Mission:**

**To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.**

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## **Pastor Ken's Corner**

*Luke 1:46-50. NIV*

*"And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.'"*

December is gone and we are fully into the New Year. That means most of us are looking to how we can manage, somehow, to stick with those New Year's resolutions...you know, those promises we make to ourselves as we look to a New Year opening up for us.

Like: I'll lose weight; I'll try harder to be faithful to my devotional reading; I will be more consistent with my prayers; I will look to do more acts of kindness. I'll volunteer for extra hours at the mobile food pantry; I'll contribute to the soup ministry and the warming tree. I'll turn over a new leaf...I can change and be a better person. The list goes on and on.

How many of us continue to make these New Year's resolutions? How many of these resolutions are still in play by the end of even the FIRST month? As January unfolds and reality sinks in, will we have the discipline and energy to fulfill all of these resolutions and live up to the earnestness with which we made them?

We have until the 5th of the month to complete the 12 days of Christmas. When the 12 days of Christmas are over, the greenery and ribbons and bows, the lights, and the Chrismon tree will come down to be stored away until the next Advent season, just 11 months away.

Why do we have to stop thinking about Christ after Christmas? Why isn't every day Christmas? We can make each and every day focused on Christ!

We could, like Mary did, recognize that Jesus came for EACH of us, not just HUMANITY as a whole, but for us individually. We can realize that Jesus recognizes the humble state of each of us and how his mercy extends to us...EACH of us...who fear him.

***“His mercy extends to those who fear him...”***

The translation might actually be better if instead of “fear” we use “being in awe and wonder” of how glorious our Lord is. Why not live the year ahead of us conscious each and every day of how blessed we are in His mercy? Why focus on resolutions that deal primarily with external aspects of our lives? Instead, why not focus on praising God, our Creator, Jesus, his Son and Redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Seems too easy, right?

Why can't we do it...?

***“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.***

It's simple...right? What is required is our coming to the point where we, like Mary, humble ourselves and recognize how great an impact God wants to have in our lives. We need to accept that God's grace and mercy through the gift of his Son is, if we allow it to be, just what we need in our lives each and every day...not just on December 25 or January 1 or any other single day but all year. Now THAT is a New Year's resolution that can change your life and the lives of others too.

The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry will be at Clarksbury on Saturday, January 6, from 9-11 a.m. Clarksbury is the church in the rotation to start the new year. The Warming Tree will continue thru February; help will be appreciated. Check with Kathy Wright if you are interested in working with the Soup Ministry.

I urge and commend all of you as we start another fresh, New Year...to PRAY, to MEDITATE on GOD'S WORD and to look to what you CAN DO for our Community and OUR CHURCH.

We, together, have pledged OUR prayers, OUR presence, OUR gifts, OUR service and OUR witness for Christ and His Church.

**Peace & Grace  
Pastor Ken**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Annual Budget for 2017 Operating Funds:</b>                     | <b>\$112,185.00</b> |
| <b>Total Received for Operating Funds as of December 31, 2017:</b> | <b>\$111,928.41</b> |

## COFFEE HOUR FOR January

|         |    |              |
|---------|----|--------------|
| January | 7  | Mary Banker  |
| January | 14 | Val Bradley  |
| January | 21 | Linda Bartz  |
| January | 28 | Lucy Blevins |



*If you would like to be a part of this church ministry,  
please contact Polly Van Benschoten, 776-0569*

## NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

## **A Message from Your Lay Leader A Simple New Year's Resolution By Warren Wright**



Have you heard about the man who moved into a retirement community to spend the rest of his life there? It wasn't long until he had made a number of friends among the other residents. There was one lady he was especially attracted to and she was attracted to him also. So they spent a lot of time together. Finally one evening he proposed, asking her to marry him. The next morning he woke up remembering his proposal, but he couldn't remember her answer. So he went to her and said, "I'm really embarrassed. I proposed to you last night but I can't remember if you said "Yes" or "No." Oh, thank goodness she replied, "I remembered saying "Yes", but I couldn't remember who asked me. Sometimes I feel that way about New Year's resolutions. I tell myself, "This year I'm going to turn over a new leaf. I'm going to exercise regularly and lose weight. I'm going to do all kinds of things to improve myself physically and spiritually." But then somehow I forget. Maybe you have that problem, too. So I have a suggestion for a New Year's resolution that we ought to be able to remember. It's kind of broad and very general, but here it is, let's promise ourselves and God that we will make a change for the better. In 2018, as God's people, as His church, let's make this one simple resolution that we're going to make a change for the better. Here are three ways to make that change for the better.

- 1. Develop a positive outlook toward life***
- 2. Develop a positive attitude toward your church***
- 3. Display a positive attitude toward others***

**Philippians 3:14- "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus".**



### **UMM NEWS**

**By Warren Wright, UMM President**

The UMM will hold their regular monthly business meeting on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.

Remember that there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

**Mission-To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.**





## Worship Committee

By David Dobson Chairperson

Happy New Year! Out with the old, and in with the new.

The ancient city of Corinth was the modern day “New York,” full of peoples of the world, a variety of foods, many fun things to experience, and an excitement in the air all the time. There was also the dark side of dishonesty, self-indulgence, and spiritual wickedness.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church of God in Corinth and explained the ministry of the New Covenant and contrasted it with the administration of the Old Covenant. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the “veil” (lack of understanding of God’s ways) is removed from those called during this age: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image [of Christ] from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (Corinthians 3:18).

God’s church is meant to thrive in any city and in every circumstance in which we find ourselves. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is as timely as ever. Let us use this New Year to share the message and proclaim: Because of Jesus the old has gone, *the new has come*.

Blessings to all,

Dave



## Food Pantry Committee

By Fran Miller

As I mentioned in our November newsletter, the Food Pantry Committee will be asking for your help when we have our next food distribution day. The date will be February 24. So how can you help? Although we have some food on our shelves, there is still a lot we need to fill our bags. We will be asking you to provide specific items that we are in desperate need of. Each Sunday we will be asking you to bring these items to church for our pantry. If you can’t donate food, money is also welcome! Here are the dates for January and the items we would like. In February’s newsletter, we will give you another list for that month. Keep the list by your refrigerator or calendar so you won’t forget! Thanks in advance for your help.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| January 7  | Canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc), peanut butter, canned fruit   |
| January 14 | <b>Canned vegetables, pork &amp; beans, Ready meals canned meat, peanut butter</b>                                    |
| January 21 | <b>Canned vegetables, canned fruit, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc.), canned meat, Ready meals</b> |
| January 28 | <b>Canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, soups, pork &amp; beans</b>                                     |

## The Warming Tree

By Chairperson, Kathy Wright

Lucy Blevins, Val Bradley, Diane Faulkner

Clarksbury U.M.C. added a new mission last fall 2016, The Warming Tree. The Warming Tree will be set up in the fellowship hall the first weekend in November. There will be “angels” on the tree that will indicate child or adult warming item to keep the individual warm during the winter months. (1) You pick an angel from the tree, which indicates what you are willing to purchase or it can be homemade, (2) take an ornament from the ornament basket and place the ornament on the warming tree where your “angel” was hanging, (3) then put your “angel” in the basket beside the ornament basket, (4) after purchasing or making your item, return the item in a small bag or you may just place the item under the warming tree.



The warming items will be distributed to our shut-ins or those who come to the Cryer Center mobile food pantry which comes to our church the first Saturday of EACH month. Pastor Ken will be distributing some of these items to those coming to our church in need of assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me, Kathy Wright, at 757-373-9166 or email [kdwright@va.metrocast.net](mailto:kdwright@va.metrocast.net). THANK YOU for participating in yet another important mission opportunity at YOUR church. God Bless!

## A Note of Thanks

By Terry and Ken Cleveland

Dear Clarksbury Family,

Thank you for the Generou\$ gift presented to us on Dec. 17. It is indeed appreciated.

But truly — an even greater appreciation is for YOU, precious Disciples of Christ. Not just at

Christmas, but throughout the whole year, your care & concern for others is boldly evident.

We look forward, with y'all in 2018, continuing to carry out His commission — making (even more!)



Disciples of Christ. . . And, sharing our Saviour's Abundant Love with others — Extravagantly!  
Our gratitude and Love 4ever,  
Pastor Ken & Terry

## The Coat Rack

By Chairperson, Kathy Wright

Lucy Blevins, Val Bradley, Diane Faulkner



ANOTHER mission opportunity at Clarksbury U.M.C.! This fall our church will be offering coats on our “Coat Rack” to individuals in need of warm coats for the winter months. These coats may be new or slightly used. PLEASE make sure the coats are clean. These coats will be available to our shut-ins, those who come to the Cryer Center mobile pantry distribution the first Saturday of EACH month at Clarksbury, and to those who come to Pastor Ken for assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me, Kathy Wright, 757-373-9166 or email [kdwright@va.metrocast.net](mailto:kdwright@va.metrocast.net). God Bless.

## Community Outreach

### Box Tops for Education



Just another way Clarksbury UMC can reach out to our community. Simply cut out those little logos from cereal & snack boxes, cans & jars of food, paper goods, food & trash bags, a wide variety of things – and bring them to church. A Big Jar in the social hall is awaiting them. With your donations St Clare Walker Middle School will gain the financial benefits schools can earn in this program.

**PRAY is a four-letter word you can use anywhere.**

*Carol sends love to all her Clarksbury Family with her new address:*

Carol Jones  
35 Beulah Drive  
Villa 10  
Raphine, VA 24472  
cell: 1-540-487-5216

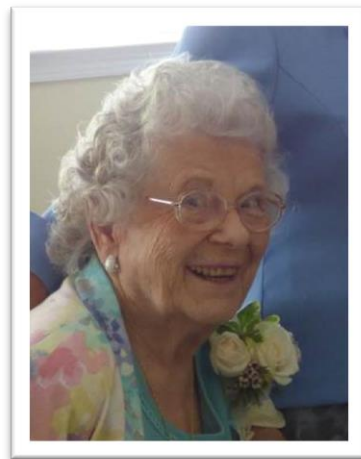


## Nurture and Outreach Committee

By Jerry Dant, Chairperson

The Nurture and Outreach Committee hopes everyone had a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

During 2018, the nurture and outreach committee is going to feature a home bound member each month in the newsletter so we can all become acquainted with them even though we don't see them often. This month we decided to feature Sue Meyers, who is the oldest member of Clarksbury United Methodist Church.



Sue grew up in a small town in North Carolina and later attended the University of North Carolina majoring in music. She married her high school sweetheart. She soon had two children and taught music in the public schools. In 1959, she moved her family to Danville where she joined Mt. Vernon UMC and served actively in the choir. She also joined several clubs, including the Junior League of Danville and volunteered at Danville Memorial Hospital for many years.

In 2006, she moved to Hartfield to be near her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Nevin Ramsburg. Sue's son lives up north with his family. You probably have seen him in the choir when he visits his mother. Music has long been her love as well as her vocation. She always has strived to **"make a joyful noise unto the Lord."** Psalm 98:4

An afternoon visit would be enjoyed by both you and Sue.

### Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed.

**Birthdays are in bold type.** Why not make a home bound member smile by sending them a card often as well as on their birthday.

If we all participate, our home bound members will get a card frequently from church members, and will have more great memories of Clarksbury.

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#### A-C

Roegean Speight **09/10**  
2939 Princess Ann Crest  
Chesapeake, VA 27321

Ivey Huff **10/12**  
233 Mae Lane  
Wake, VA 23176

Jane Crittenden **8/22**  
P.O. 30  
Hardyville, VA 23070

#### D-G

Sue Myers **09/30**  
Westminster Canterbury  
132 Lancaster Drive  
Irvington, VA 22480

Reggie Jackson **7/12**  
Riverside Convalescent Ctr.  
P.O. Box 303  
Saluda, VA 23149

Melvin Hawley **11/25**  
17504 General Puller Hwy  
Deltaville, VA 23043

#### H-L

Betty Morris **9/27**  
221 Sturgeon Point Loop  
Deltaville, VA 23043

Myrtle Clark **10/2**  
P.O. Box 302  
Deltaville, VA 23043

Pastor Jim Salmon **5/24**  
26306 Mattaponi Trail  
Milford, VA 22524

#### M-Z

Janis Slaughter  
228 Crab Neck Rd.  
Hudgins, VA 23076

Jean Cree  
Georgia Manor #62  
651 Riverwalk Place  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Joyce Mathews **8/27**  
451 Fishing Bay Estates  
Box 11  
Deltaville, VA 23043



# JANUARY POP! (POWER OF PRAYER!)



Once Thanksgiving meals are forgotten, Advent and Christmas is behind, the New Year celebrated, and the Epiphany passes, what then? Some people feel overwhelmed at the huge buildup for the holiday season only to experience a major letdown in January and February. Let's face it, who likes the cold, dark, and sometimes dreary days of the winter? When feeling down and out, never forget you have a remedy in prayer:

**Psalm 107:28-30** *Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.*

*Just as the sun rises each day, the winter will pass and we WILL make it to another spring and Easter. There is great power and strength in the Lord and through faith, the ability to overcome all that troubles you.*

**Matthew 21:21** *Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.*

*May Gods love shine upon you and warm you this month and always.*

By Dave Dobson



# The Grapevine

## January 2018



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday                | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|-----------|---|-----------------------|--|
|   | <b>1</b><br>11 a.m.<br>Soup<br>Ministry                     | <b>2</b><br>7 p.m.<br>Trustees                       | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>7 p.m.                    | <b>5</b><br>Lee White | <b>6</b><br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship   |
| <b>7</b><br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship<br>Communion | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>Cheryl Teagle<br>EYCircle<br>7p.m.       | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>Al Wild<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>7 p.m.        | <b>12</b>             | <b>13</b><br>Mobile Food<br>Pantry 9 a.m-<br>11 noon<br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship |
| <b>14</b><br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship             | <b>15</b><br>Lucy Blevins<br>11 a.m.<br>Soup<br>Ministry    | <b>16</b><br>Finance &<br>Church<br>Council<br>7 p.m | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>Susan Valencia<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>7 p.m. | <b>19</b>             | <b>20</b><br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship  |
| <b>21</b><br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship             | <b>22</b><br>Terry<br>Cleveland<br>UMM<br>Meeting<br>7 p.m. | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>7 p.m.                   | <b>26</b>             | <b>27</b><br>Nevin<br>Ramsburg<br>5-5:45 p.m.<br>Contemporary<br>Worship                       |
| <b>28</b><br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship             | <b>29</b><br>Abigail<br>Foster<br>Amber<br>Clark            | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b> |   |                       |  |
| <b>31</b><br>10-10:40 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>11 a.m.<br>Worship             |   |  |           |   |                       |  |

The deadline for the February 2018 Grapevine will be **Friday, January 26.**

Send items to [pwalian@yahoo.com](mailto:pwalian@yahoo.com).

**January Birthdays** (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)

**Scripture reader** for **January** is Nevin Ramsburg

**Counters** for **January** are Polly Van Benschoten and Cheryl Teagle

Dobson Family will serve as **ushers** for **January**