



# *The Grapevine*

**Clarksbury United Methodist Church**  
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia    February 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**

**Joel 2:12-17 (NRSV)**

***<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"***

We enter another season in which to focus on God's grace and mercy. We have the joy of Easter and its promise, but we must or should pass through the reflection and meditation of **Lent (Ash Wednesday...February 14 to April 1...Easter)** to fully appreciate God's love, mercy and grace...by **fasting** and **praying** and **meditating** on the scriptures, particularly ones from the prophets such as Joel, so that we can gain an inkling into Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us.

We come to the period of Lent which brings us ultimately to the celebration of Easter. But, **we aren't there yet**... just as we await the return of Jesus and the new heaven and the new earth promised and foretold in John's Revelation. Just as we went through Advent to prepare us for Jesus' birth so we go through Lent to prepare our hearts and souls for his resurrection...at Easter.

***<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.***

Lent is the time for us to return to the Lord with all our heart... yes, through fasting and meditating and reading the Word to draw nearer to our Lord.

Saturday, February 3, we have our Mobile Food Pantry with the Cryer Center from 9 to 11 a.m. Zoar Baptist is the lead for this weekend. All are welcome to come and help or just to see what goes on for this event if you haven't been here for a while. We will continue the warming tree and coat closet for another month; anyone wanting to help can contact Warren or Kathy Wright.

Our Lenten Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, February 21, at 7 p.m. with sessions continuing through March 21. The five-session study is by Max Lucado and is entitled ***He Chose the Nails***. There are still books available and joining the study at any point can benefit you. The cost for the book is \$11; sign up in the social hall or see Warren Wright.

Most of all, as we are in the season of Lent where we prepare ourselves for Easter, I pray for deep reflection, fasting and meditation which leads to waking on that Easter Morn.

Here is the schedule for Lent observances; all services are joint services between Philippi, Zoar and Clarksbury.

**Shrove Tuesday** - February 13, Pancake supper at **Philippi**, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (\$10)

**Ash Wednesday** - February 14, Imposition of Ashes from 11-12 a.m. at **Clarksbury**

**Ash Wednesday** - February 14, 2 p.m. service with communion at **Philippi**

**Valentine's Day** Dinner and Program at Zoar - February 14, 6 p.m. (5 Love Languages) donations requested; sign up required

**Palm Sunday** - March 25, Cantata at **Clarksbury**, 7 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services - TBD**

**Easter Vigil** at **Clarksbury** - **Saturday**, March 31, from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m.

**Easter SUNRISE Service** - Sunday, April 1, 6:30 a.m. at the **Zoar** Beach property.

***<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.***

Lent is a time for all of us to gather and present ourselves for the Lord to sanctify us by the Holy Spirit.

Let us all be in an attitude of gratitude in our daily prayers and our daily meditations and readings and all our interactions with our brothers and sisters.

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</b> for 2018 Operating Funds:	<b>\$112,331.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b> for Operating Funds as of January 31, 2017:	<b>\$7812.50</b>
<b>Total Income Needed to Meet Budget:</b>	<b>\$9360.92</b>

### COFFEE HOUR FOR February

February	4	Becky Foster
February	11	Betty Ann Tabler
February	18	Jerry Dant
February	25	Gayle Gilliland



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

FOR GOD  
SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY  
BEGOTTEN  
SON SO  
THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHALL NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE ETERNAL  
LIFE

JOHN 3:16

## A Message from Your Lay Leader

### What's this thing that we call Tithing/Stewardship? Can you actually balance a church budget?

By Warren Wright

A well-worn dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty dollar bill arrive at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they move along the conveyer belt to be burned, they strike up a conversation. The twenty reminisces about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," it proclaims. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, performances on Broadway, the best restaurants in New York, even a cruise to the Caribbean." "Wow!" exclaims the one dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!" "So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?" The one dollar bill replies, "Oh I've been to the Christian Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church..." **"Tell me," the twenty dollar bill interrupts, "what's a church?"**

So why is money such a touchy topic in churches today anyway? Some people think the church is only out to get their money. "I'm not going to that church, all they ever do is ask for money. Sure they quote scripture and say it's better to give than to receive. Seems to me they are all about receiving." Have you ever heard that before? Just as it is a sensitive issue today, so it was in Jesus' time. That didn't stop Jesus from talking about it though. Did you know that more than half of Jesus' parables relate to tithing/stewardship? There are 2,350 passages in the Bible dealing with money and material possessions – more than on any other subject – but it's the least talked about subject in the church. One out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke deals with money. **I get the impression God wants us to deal with this issue regularly.** Throughout the Old Testament tithing/stewardship is described as giving the very best of the first of everything in our lives – our thoughts, our hearts, our families, our possessions, our money – nothing is to be held back from God. The New Testament scriptures refer to giving it all to God. Not just the first 10 percent, all of it. "And God can give you more blessings than you need. Then you will always have plenty of everything – enough to give to every good work." Don't you just love God's straightforwardness? He sure doesn't pull any punches. God gives so we can give. It's that created in His image thing you know. My favorite author, Max Lucado, put it this way, "You don't give for God's sake. You give for your sake. The purpose of tithing/stewardship is to teach you to always put God first in your lives". At Clarksbury UMC, we have struggled for years to meet our budget (and a very tight budget to say the least), but in 2017 because of some very generous givers who opened their wallets wider, we were able to meet our budget for the first time in years. Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have to worry about meeting our budget? What if I told you that there is a way to avoid the end of the year budget woes by simply increasing your giving by \$1.00-\$2.00-\$3.00-\$4.00-\$5.00 per week. Our Financial Secretary has distributed 45 "Giving Envelopes" for 2018 to members of the church and you will be surprised at how much just an extra dollar a week placed in those envelopes will affect the budget, look at these examples:

**\$1.00 per week x 45 x 52=\$2,340.00 per year**  
**\$2.00 per week x 45 x 52=\$4,680.00 per year**  
**\$3.00 per week x 45 x 52=\$7,020.00 per year**  
**\$4.00 per week x 45 x 52=\$9,360.00 per year**  
**\$5.00 per week x 45 x 52=\$11,700.00 per year**

As your Lay Leader, I ask you to search your heart this year and consider that extra dollar or dollars each week.

**Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

**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 next regular monthly business meeting on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The men are planning an eat in/take out Spaghetti Dinner on Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30 PM at a cost of \$8.00.

A UMM/UMW eat in/take out barbeque dinner is planned for Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:30 PM at a cost of \$10.00. Our resident Pitmaster, Bryan Motes, will be cooking on premises. The proceeds from this dinner will go to the general operating fund of the church.

The UMM will start their next Bible Study on Monday April 16<sup>th</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**

The worship committee meeting planned for January was canceled and has yet to be rescheduled. Currently I am thinking of having the meeting sometime between the days Feb 12-13. Fear not though, the Lenten lunch series of speakers have been arranged and there will be a Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Ken. An Easter Cantata is also being arranged for this Easter season.

Until next time, keep these words from Psalm 96 in your heart:  
Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Blessings to all,  
Dave



## **Food Pantry Update**

**By Fran Miller**

On behalf of the Food Pantry Committee, I want to thank you for your generous contributions during the January food drive. Your work is not over, however! As I told you in last month's newsletter, we will be collecting food during the month of February as well. Our hope is to have enough to feed at least the number of families we had helped in October. We are hoping to have at least 100 bags of groceries to do this. So at the bottom of this article is the list of items we would like for the weeks in February. There is a separate list of what we put in our bags, so if you can bring a filled bag on February 11 or 18 please put these items in it. Of course, if you prefer to give a monetary donation that is always welcome!

Besides donations of food, the food committee needs your help on the day we open our doors to distribute this food. It will be on Saturday, February 24 from 9-11 a.m. We need people to greet, serve refreshments, and help carry bags to cars. There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary. Please volunteer! Also, if you know a family who needs help, please tell them to come on the 24th. Thank you again for your help and support.

Yours In Christ,  
The Food Pantry Committee



<b>February 4</b>	<b>canned vegetables, Ready Meals, canned meat, canned fruit, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc), peanut butter</b>
<b>February 11</b>	<b>Fill a bag</b>
<b>February 18</b>	<b>Fill a bag</b>
<b>Contents of Bag</b>	<b>7 vegetables</b> <b>Jar of spaghetti sauce</b> <b>Peanut butter</b> <b>2 cans pork &amp; beans</b> <b>2 Ready Meals</b> <b>2 canned meats or tuna</b> <b>2 soups or soup mixes &amp; 1 Ramen noodles</b> <b>2 cans fruit</b> <b>Box of pasta</b> <b>Bag of dried beans</b> <b>1 breakfast food</b> <b>1 box macaroni &amp; cheese</b> <b>2 pkg. rice or pasta mix or 2 envelopes instant mashed potatoes</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!

## **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.



## **AS A FACE IS REFLECTED IN WATER, SO THE HEART REFLECTS THE REAL PERSON. (PROVERBS 27:19)**

### **Nurture and Outreach Committee**

**By Jerry Dant, Chairperson**

In January the Nurture and Outreach Committee featured the oldest member of Clarksbury, Sue Myers, and we hope everyone enjoyed learning about Sue and her family. This month we are featuring the next oldest member, Ivey Huff. Ivey grew up in Richmond and was the third of four children. She developed a love for tennis since her home was across from public tennis courts.



On her birthday in 1945 she married an Army Lieutenant, Fred, and they had 2 sons, Rick and Bob. After moving around for a few years, including China, they settled in Fairfax. Fred worked for the government and she worked in different jobs as an office Manager and accountant. She still had time to help organize Fairfax Presbyterian Church, sing in the choir and be church secretary. They moved to Fairfax in 1974 and forty years later after losing her husband and son Rick, she moved to Wake a suburb of Deltaville at the suggestion of Bob.

True to form, one of the first things she sought was a new church home. She chagrined because there was no Presbyterian Church nearby. She soon began attending Clarksbury, even though, as she jokingly put it, this meant "converting" to Methodism...

She still seeks to be as active as possible in her new church home. Her faith is still growing and she accepts the fact that after all these years there is always more to learn and appreciate about the Lord God and his Son our Savior, Jesus.

### **Outreach**

Clarksbury is proud to be a part of the ministry at Dockside. Va Clark has been a great inspiration to the residents with her Christian music and testimony. Thanks Va we love you for your contribution at Dockside.

## 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.

### 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

## A Short Primer on Nursing Home Ministry THE WORD

**Matt. 5:37-40** Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them,

**"Truly, I say you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (ESV)**

**The Field** For many underlying reasons, some good and some not so good, our modern Western Civilization has organized itself in such a way as to create an institutionalized population in our midst. This division of our culture is composed of people who receive life sustaining care on a long-term basis (thus, "long term care" or LTC). In using the terms "nursing home ministry" or "care center ministry" we refer to a broad category of long-term care settings which include retirement homes, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

The population of a local care facility will often accurately reflect the ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of the community that surrounds it. Therefore, of particular importance to the Christian volunteer, he or she must be prepared to accommodate an interdenominational group of believers to whom they will be expected to minister. Of course, people living in long-term care would be typically older and more mentally and/or physically infirm than the general population. This being said, the Christian volunteer should also be aware that there is a trend, especially in nursing homes, toward a growing contingent of middle-aged and young adult residents.

*Gleaned from an article from Christian Concourse. Fred Dant A Ministry of The Great Commission Matthew 28:18-20*

# FEBRUARY POP! (POWER OF PRAYER!)



*February, the month we celebrate **LOVE**  
please read & absorb, from a pamphlet  
The Journey, by Mary Tom Hefte:*

*The More We **Love**, The Better We Pray*

*Prayer is not just saying prayers, it is a relationship of turning one's whole life toward God. It is not the prayers that count but prayerfulness. Prayer is grateful living, it is to take responsibility, to be still and know, to listen and hear and to trust beyond ourselves to God. The central power of prayer is that it transforms our **hearts**, awakens our souls **that we may become beams of Divine Love.***



# The Grapevine

## February 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 p.m.	2	3 <b>Percy Hattorf</b> <b>Mobile Food</b> <b>Pantry 9-11(Zoar)</b> 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
4 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	5 <b>Al Johnston</b> 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	6 <b>Trustees</b> 7 p.m.	7 <b>George Lee Clark</b>	8 <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 p.m.	9	10 <b>Jean Cree</b> <b>Mobile Food</b> <b>Pantry 9 a.m-11 noon</b> 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
11 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	12	13 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> <b>Pancake</b> <b>Super Philippi</b> 4:30-6:30 <b>EYCircle</b> 7p.m.	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Imposition of Ashes</b> <i>Clarksbury 11-12</i> <i>Service Philippi</i> 2p.m. <b>Valentines</b> <b>Dinner Zoar</b> 6p.m.	15 <b>Anne Tompkins</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 p.m.	16	17 <b>Danny Mauney</b> 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
18 <b>John Robertson</b> 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	19 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	20 <b>Finance &amp; Church Council</b> 7 p.m	21 <b>Lenten Bible Study</b> <i>He Chose the Nails</i> 7p.m.	22 <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 p.m.	23 <b>Virginia Clark</b>	24 <b>Hannah Clark</b> 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
25 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	26 <b>UMM Meeting</b> 7 p.m.	27 <b>Diane Faulkner</b>	28			

The deadline for the March 2018 Grapevine will be Friday, February 23.

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

**February 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 **February** is Lucy Blevins

**Counters** for **February** are Linda Bartz and Lucy Blevins

Alan Miller and Warren Wright will serve as **ushers** for **February**