



# *The Grapevine*

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

***John 12:20-33 (NRSV)***

***<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.***

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and will conclude on March 31, the day before Easter. We often associate Lent with self-reflection, repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial...a spiritual cleaning, of sorts. Perhaps you've heard or asked, "What did you give up for Lent?"

When we choose willingly to give something up—a habit, an indulgence or a behavior—we do so intentionally to avail ourselves of God's grace. This self-denial leads to a dying of self as we anticipate and expect that we will experience, through our Easter faith, a rising with Christ and a rebirth of life.

Lent is a season of preparation and anticipation. Let us prepare for and anticipate the sadness and grief that we feel when Christ is laid in the tomb. Let us, then, look with new eyes toward Easter as we celebrate and give thanks that we are a Resurrection people.

My prayer is that WE continue to pray, meditate on His WORD daily, serve our community selflessly, and celebrate those sheep who have lost their way (like you and I have at different times) when they are found and returned to the fold.

Join us for our March Lenten luncheons.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Preparers</u>
March 7	Ileana Rosario	UMW
March 14	Grant Ambrose	UMM
March 21	Ken Cleveland	UMM
March 28	TBD	UMM

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Lent can be a time when these words take on a much deeper meaning for each of us. Is our faith like the seed and it takes our baptism and the growth after that to grow and bear much fruit? Not just MUCH fruit...but good fruit! Christ gave up his earthly, human life to lift us out of the darkness of sin and death. We have the choice to make. Will we serve Jesus Christ? Will we follow Him? Where does He want you to serve? How does He want you to serve the Father?

Time and reflection...meditating on the Word, seeking discernment on His desires for our lives...what gifts and talents did God bless you with?

Lots of questions!...lots of answers! Sometimes the process of discernment is the best reward for the time invested in finding out where God wants you to serve.

I believe it is our FAITH in Jesus that we put into ACTIONS for and with the YOUTH and YOUNG of our community that truly lives into the above commands from our Lord.

Keep our Soup Ministry, those who serve and are served, in your prayers for March.

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

**Peace & Grace Pastor Ken**

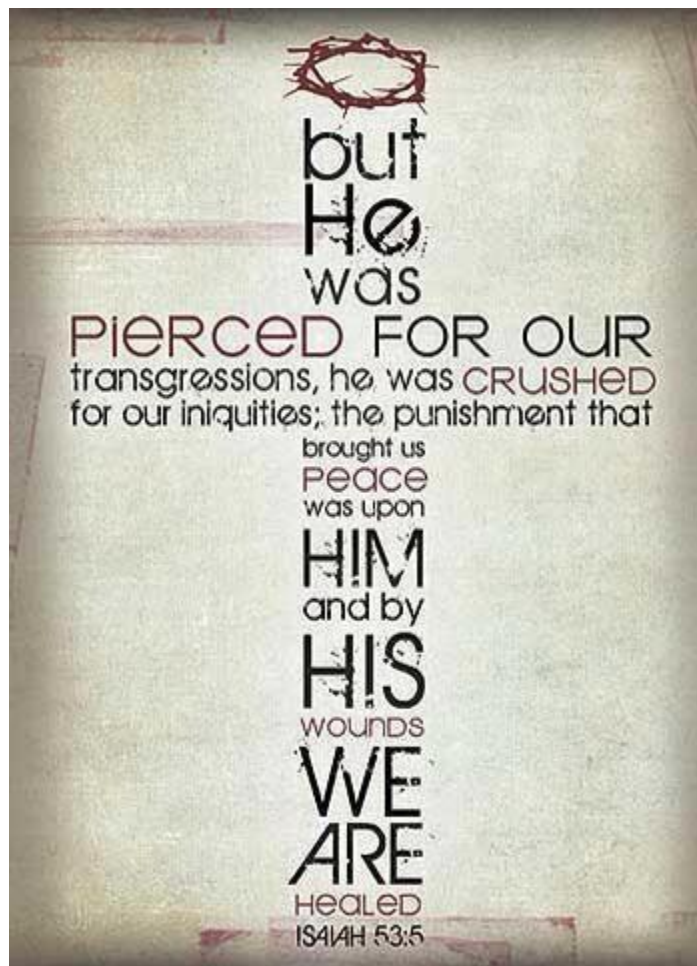
<b>Annual Budget</b> for 2018 Operating Funds:	<b>\$112,331.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b> for Operating Funds as of February 25, 2017:	<b>16,302.00</b>
<b>Total Income Needed to Meet Budget:</b>	<b>18,722.00</b>

### COFFEE HOUR FOR March

March	4	Fran Miller & Linda Bartz
March	11	Cacky Guill
March	18	Jerry Dant
March	25	Betty Tate



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



**A Message from Your Lay Leader**  
**Saint Patrick, The Shamrock, The Trinity**  
**By Warren Wright**



Little is known of Saint Patrick's early life, though it is known that he was born in Roman Britain (part of the island of Great Britain) in the 4th century, into a wealthy family. His father and grandfather were Deacons in the Church. At the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken captive to Ireland as a slave. It is believed he was held somewhere on the west coast of Ireland, possibly Mayo, but the exact location is unknown. According to his Confession, he was told by God in a dream to flee from captivity to the coast, where he would board a ship and return to Britain. Upon returning, he quickly joined the Church in Auxerre in Gaul and studied to be a priest.

In 432, he again said that he was called back to Ireland, though as a bishop, to Christianize the Irish from their native polytheism. Irish folklore tells that one of his teaching methods included using the Shamrock to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish people. Originally, the color associated with Saint Patrick was blue. Over the years the color green and its association with Saint Patrick's Day grew. Green ribbons and Shamrocks were worn in celebration of St Patrick's Day as early as the 17th century. In the 1798 rebellion, in hopes of making a political statement, Irish soldiers wore full green uniforms on March 17th in hopes of catching public attention. The phrase "the wearing of the green", meaning to wear a shamrock on one's clothing, derives from a song of the same name. After nearly thirty years of Evangelism, he died on 17 March 461, and according to tradition, was buried at Downpatrick. Although there were other more successful missions to Ireland from Rome, Patrick endured as the principal champion of Irish Christianity and is held in esteem in the Irish Church.

Matthew 28:18-20-"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father **and** the Son **and** the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

## UMM NEWS

### By Warren Wright, UMM President

The UMM will hold their next regular monthly business meeting on Monday, March 26th 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 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

Happy Lent to my Christian brothers and sisters.

Although previous attempts to have a worship committee meeting have not come through [it's on me], Lenten season is underway and we are steadily progressing onto Easter! I would like to try again for a meeting of the Worship Committee on 13 March, 6pm if the members can make it. Rest assured, Becky will stir our souls with a special program for Easter and we will all continue to enjoy being at Clarksbury on Sundays.

So what if you can't make a Sunday? Does that mean you cannot worship that week? Of course not. Romans 12:1 serves as a great guide to how to worship, even when you're not in church. In this verse, Paul urges us, *"in view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*

Fill your mind with what is good and pleasing and holy (Philippians 4:8). It doesn't have to be labeled "Christian" in order to be uplifting and edifying—but you do need to guard your mind and heart against temptations because there is no one else who will do this for you. As you build relationships with others, you will find opportunities to share what God is doing in your life. And as you see more of Him, your faith will deepen, and you'll find yourself worshipping God more and more often! Yes, he works that way.

The truth is we can find God in movies, books, and activities if we set our mind on Him and remember to watch for Him. Each of us has to decide what to feed ourselves to bring out the best in ourselves, and then to turn it around to offer it to God.

We have a human tendency to compartmentalize—this box is for church, and that one is for the other parts of life. Make a conscious effort to keep the boxes wide open and allow them to overflow into other areas. Be open about how you see God in your life. Simply live it, authentically. Let your life be your worship. Offer it as a gift to the God who has given you so much. That's the most powerful kind of testimony, and the most beautiful kind of worship—whether you're in church or not.

*Kelly Stanley, Crosswalk.com, August 10, 2016.*





## Winter Food Pantry A Success!

By Fran Miller

We would like to thank all the people who made the Winter Food Pantry such a huge success – those that donated food or money, pack our grocery bags, and give up their day to help distribute the food. On our distribution day, we were able to help 53 families comprising 170 people. We distributed 78 bags of groceries and 53 bags of toiletries. Thanks to the Soup Ministry, we were also able to distribute 51 quarts of soup and items from our warming tree. But that is not all this day was about. We had 3 people ask for someone to pray with them. We think the families felt the caring and welcoming attitudes of our volunteers that day. We, as a group, felt that we were doing what God meant us to do – reach out and help our neighbor. We truly felt the Spirit! Now don't think your job is done. We will be seeking volunteers to help with our Summer Food Pantry. So keep your eyes open for articles appearing in upcoming newsletters. Again, thank you for all you have done.

Yours In Christ The Food Pantry Committee



## Soup Ministry

By Chairperson, Kathy Wright

Lucy Blevins, Val Bradley, Diane Faulkner



Our soup ministry started the 2018 year with our usual soup deliveries in January, and then in February, we provided sixty quarts of homemade soup for the Clarksbury Food Pantry Distribution on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The committee would like to thank Warren Wright and Lee White for making the sixty quarts of vegetable soup provided for this food pantry distribution. We also provided a sleeve of crackers with each quart of soup. The committee delivers a quart of homemade soup with crackers the first and third Monday of **each** month to recipients in the Deltaville community. If you would like to be a part of this very important ministry of our church, or know of someone who might benefit from this ministry, please contact me (Kathy Wright) at 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.

## *Generosity is a condition of the heart, not the wallet.*

### **Nurture and Outreach Committee**

**By Jerry Dant, Chairperson**

The first two months of 2018 we featured the oldest member of Clarksbury, Sue Myers and the second oldest member Ivey Huff. This month we are going to feature Betty Morris, who was invited to church by fellow members and had a very unusual way to spend her time.

Betty Morris was born on September 27, 1941 in Norfolk, where she and her brother lived for five years. She spent most of her childhood in different areas around Richmond or Chesterfield, but her father was in the Navy and because of this, she has been around water all of her life!!

Betty and her late husband, Charlie Morris (who was also in the Navy), were married in an Episcopalian Church on November 5, 1960. Shortly after her husband passed in 2012, Betty moved back to Deltaville permanently to the house her father built in the 60's. He paid \$800 for his lot!!!

One Sunday, Betty's neighbors, Ron & Val Bradley, insisted that Betty join them at the service at Clarksbury. She decided she would take them up on the offer. She went that Sunday and has been attending Clarksbury ever since.

Betty loves spending time with her 3 grandchildren and one great grandson! She also enjoys sewing and doing crafts. In her younger years, Betty liked to spend time on the top of a (water) ski pyramid!



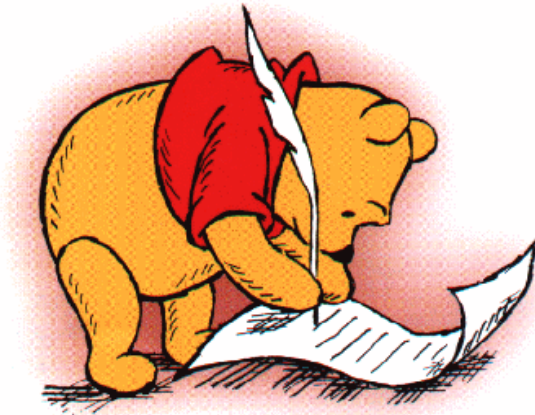
### **Outreach**

Clarksbury has been very active at Dockside with Fred and David going two Sundays a month, the ladies assisting the Activity Director and the Church donating the Birthday Cake for the monthly party. Thanks to all, and if you are interested in helping at Dockside, please let this committee know.

## 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**  
#208  
Commonwealth Sen Living  
460 South Main Street  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

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

Jean Cree  
Georgia Manor #62  
651 Riverwalk Place

Joyce Mathews **8/27**  
451 Fishing Bay Estates  
Box 11



## **Forty Incredible Fabulous Days Of Wonder**

Acts 1:1-3

1I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. 3After His suffering He presented Himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (NRSV)

On April 9, AD30, followers of the Nazarene, Jesus, had just witnessed the most inconceivably horrible day of their lives. As they walked along, most likely in silence, asking why this could happen.

Wasn't He the Savior, the one promised us to break us out of bondage? He told us this would happen. We all knew what was going to happen. We knew He was doing this to save our souls, but were we ready for it? No, no, no, we were not ready, it just can't be.

They had gathered in a second-story room in Jerusalem. This was their third day of mourning. It was illegal to mourn publically for a condemned criminal. Their teacher, whom they had believed to be the long-expected **Messiah** sent to rescue Israel from bondage, was dead. They'd watched Him die. The depression in the room was so thick you could almost cut it with a knife.

SUDDENLY the door flew open. Women, breathless from running from the tomb where they were going to prepare the body of Jesus in the Jewish tradition. They were babbling confusing things about a rolling stone,  
(Matthew 28:2, a missing corpse, John 20:2-13, angels, Luke 24:4-5, and a risen Christ.  
Matthew: 28:8-10)!!!

**That was the start of the most amazing days of their lives.**

Jesus spoke of things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3). Alive and kicking, Jesus appeared to His people in all kinds of places and situations. He spoke their names, touched them, invited them to touch Him, ate with them hiked and fished with them. The scars of the crucifixion were visible in His hands and feet and side. (Luke 24:39-40, John 20:27).

People crowded around their **Master** in those meetings after He had arisen. They probably sat on the edge of their seats, unable to take their eyes off the back-from-the-dead Jesus. "The Kingdom of God" had always been on His mind. He spoke of it more than eighty times in the **four Gospels**. Alive from the dead, He talked about it more than ever.

The Kingdom seems to center in one major issue. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth

as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10). The Kingdom is the reign or rule of God. Everything in the kingdom focuses on doing **God's will**.

To be continued Fred Dant

## MARCH POP! (POWER OF PRAYER!)

The phrase, "My thoughts and prayers are with you" following a tragedy has started to get some heat especially in past months with the large numbers of national and worldwide tragedies.

I've also seen a number of Christians say and post on social media things such as "Enough with the thoughts and prayer. Time for action."

But I wonder, why would Christians say that? I understand nonbelievers finding no meaning in that phrase. Of course "thought and prayers" ring hollow to them. But Christians?

Maybe some of these folks say this because, to them, thoughts and prayers have no meaning behind the words. And that very well may be true. Are our churches putting some "oomph" behind those thoughts and prayers? Are we active in the needs of our different communities?

But at the same time, maybe we aren't putting enough "oomph" into our thoughts and prayers. I mean, **how sore are your praying knees?** When you say you will pray for someone, what does that mean to you? A short prayer and then out of sight, out of mind?

I'm guilty of this as well, Many times, I have apologized to people because all I can offer are my thoughts and prayers in a certain situation. But just as I am trying to break a cycle of apologizing when either I'm not actually sorry or I shouldn't be apologizing, maybe this phrase can also be saved from the brink (there's a great Dove commercial on this, if you haven't seen it).

If you often offer your "thoughts and prayers," are you following these words up with action? If you are tired of the phrase, how much time and effort are you putting into your prayer life?

*Clarksbury United Methodist Men  
Spaghetti Dinner*



*Friday March 9th 4:30-6:30 P M*

*Tickets \$8.00*

*Eat In or Take Out*

*Beverage and Dessert Included*

*Proceeds to Benefit Church Ministries*



# The Grapevine

## March 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	2	3 Mobile Food Pantry 9- 11(Philippi) 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
4 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	5 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	6 Trustees 7 p.m.	7 Linda Dobbins	8 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	9 Spaghetti Dinner 4:30- 6:30p.m.	10 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
11 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	12 Alison Crittenden Chuck Banker	13 EYCircle 7p.m.	14 Peggy Vaudt	15 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	16 Ronnie Teagle	17 Annette Johnston 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
18 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	19 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	20 Corey Buchanan Finance & Church Council 7 p.m	21	22 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	23	24 Don Van Benschoten 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
25 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	26 Mark White UMM Meeting 7 p.m.	27	28 April Mauney	29 Linda Davis	30	31

The deadline for the April 2018 Grapevine will be Monday, March 26.

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

**March 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 **March** is Gayle Gilliland  
**Counters** for **March** are Warren Wright and Don Van Benschoten  
Tommy and Jenny Crittenden will serve as **ushers** for **March**