



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia January 2019

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Ephesians 3:5-12 (NRSV)

⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the bless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Glory to the King of Kings and Prince of Peace!!! Praise be to our Savior!!! We are quickly leaping into another fresh year. A chapter in our lives has been closed and we look expectantly for a year of wonder to open up before us. We are children of the promise of **Jesus Christ!** The New Year of 2019 is opening up before us. Are we ready? What wonder will God reveal to us these next 12 months?

As we close out the year of 2018 we remember moments of great grace and mercy, tender treasured memories lie behind us, and we look forward to His road opening up before us. Many will make resolutions. How many of those resolutions will hold through the months ahead? I think it isn't as important to know how many resolutions we can maintain but rather to evaluate our current condition to see where God wants us to be and to determine to do whatever NEEDS to be done to move us from where we are to where we NEED to BE in God's plan.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

First and foremost, our task is before us and we need to take up the path that he places on our lives, not of or by our own limited and finite ability alone, but with the grace and the working of HIS INFINITE POWER. You see, we aren't on our own, left with only our limited gifts and talents. Rather HE empowers and equips us to do those tasks he has for us.

A thought to retain from all of the joy and celebration of the last few months is knowing that Jesus is the reason for all seasons and we need to keep Him foremost in our focus.

Saturday, January 5, is our Mobile Food Pantry with the Cryer Center; Clarksbury has the lead. There will be plenty of work for all those interested in serving the needy in our community. Come check out what goes on and lend a hand if/where needed or just visit.

The Warming Tree as well as the Coat Closet from previous years will kick off on Saturday as well. These ministries will run through February, providing people with gloves, hats, mufflers and scarves as well as coats, jackets and sweaters. If you have any questions regarding the Warming Tree or the Coat Closet, contact Warren or Kathy Wright.

A topic still on most minds is the Called General Conference Session on February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. Wherever or however the “Way Forward” plays out next year for the United Methodist connection, we Christians, yes **us**, will still have the same commandment from Jesus to love one another as He has loved us and to go into all the world and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Our prime directive, as it were, is still the same.

Access the Conference web page for more detailed information on the “Way Forward” at the site below.

<https://vaumc.org/WayForward>

⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

I know God has a plan but most of that long range plan of His is not visible or evident to me; it's mostly a mystery to my limited perception. But I have faith that wherever his path leads us His grace and mercy will keep us and equip us to do the work he wants us to do. My faith and hope is in the Lord!

Speaking of faith and hope, our Prayer Warriors will be “gainfully employed” covering all of the procedures, operations, travels and other prayer concerns and needs of our congregation, friends, families, and community.

I will try to keep the Prayer Warrior e-mails current and relevant as we get more information and updates. If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive the Prayer Warrior updates, please let me know and provide your e-mail address.

Please remember to be faithful in letting me know if you hear about one of “ours” who is headed to the hospital or is having an issue and is at the hospital or has been to the ER. I would rather hear twice about those in need rather than it be assumed that I must already know.

We are collectively committed to do a good work among those we encounter. Our Savior is waiting for us on that day of completion. Unlike Paul I'm not imprisoned, but believe me I covet your prayers for our joint ministries to the congregation, the community, and those precious children and youth with whom we have been blessed these recent months. We can press on to the goal that Jesus has for each of us.

¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

We are the church, and through us God's wisdom and mercy is made real and evident to our community and to the world. In the name of Jesus we are his hands and feet to serve, feed and assist. Through Jesus' boldness and our confidence and faith in Him we move to accomplish the eternal purpose He has for us.

Keep in your thoughts and prayers our Soup Ministry and the people who are receiving a blessing from lovingly prepared soup, basic crackers and other simple foods. Loving care is never just simple...so long as Jesus is in that ministry the soup will be GREAT.

Nurture and Outreach to our community and our congregation are instrumental in faithfully serving our Lord, not just at Dockside, but throughout the community in various ways. Talk to Jerry Dant about cards or letters or contacting some of our shut-ins. Volunteer for work at Dockside. **See Jerry or Fred or David for more information.** We are blessed **TO BE** a blessing.

Jesus is alive, and we're forgiven!

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Happy New Year to all of you and all of yours...may his GRACE, MERCY and LOVE be with you every day, and may every day your awareness of HIS presence through HIS unbreakable gifts to YOU grow.

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

Peace & Grace
Pastor Ken

Annual Budget for 2019 Operating Funds:	\$112,331.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of November, 2018:	116,149.00
Total Income Needed to Meet Budget:	0.00

COFFEE HOUR FOR January

January	6	Anne Tompkins
January	13	Mary Banker
January	20	Jerry Dant
January	27	Polly Van Benschoten



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

United Methodist Men News **Warren Wright-UMM President**



The UMM will return on Monday January 28, 2019 at 7 PM for our monthly business meeting. At this meeting we will be planning our 2019 activities. 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.

A Message from Your Lay Leader

Warren Wright



Wow, it's hard to believe 2018 is now history and we now begin 2019. Reflecting back on 2018, Clarksbury has a lot to be proud of. We've had a great year of worship under the leadership of Pastor Ken and Terry. God has truly blessed our church with their ministry. Clarksbury just seems to be so much more alive with a renewed enthusiasm (and our children) to serve God and our fellow man. Together as a church we accomplished many goals in 2018. Our hard work at fundraisers has allowed us to serve our community and beyond with generous gifts. The UMW and UMM are very active in the ministries and missions of the church. We have given time and monetary gifts to Nursing Home Ministries, Rise Against Hunger, Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry, St. Andrew Potato Project, Heart Havens, Christmas Friends, Clarksbury Food Pantry, Warming Tree, Coat Closet, Soup Ministry, and others. We have step out of our "comfort zone" many times reaching out into the community to accomplish the work that God has entrusted us to do for His glory. We need to ride this momentum, for there is much more work to be done in 2019. The community must see us as a working church, willing to do what others will not do, and open to all.

Have a great New Year and may the love of our Lord and Savior bless you and your family in 2019.

Matthew 6:33-"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all things will be given to you as well."

Worship Committee

David Dobson

The worship committee will hold its first meeting of the year on 3 January, 6pm. The items to be discussed include Lenten lunches and vacation bible school 2019. Yes, it is here again.

We are tentatively looking at a July M-F event. Although all must run through the committee, we will appoint a "director" of VBS to handle the people and logistics.

In conjunction with the UM mission, we will present a VBS that centers on going from "an person" to "Disciple of Christ". I envision the first four nights, an individual Disciple of Christ will be covered. We will learn about the person, places, and things that made them change from ordinary to extraordinary. On the last night, a "Last Supper" for all, to include the relevance of that moment, taking of communion, and what happened next.

Happy New Year! Dave

Food Pantry Committee

Fran Miller

Christmas is barely over, but the Food Pantry Committee is already thinking about our Winter Food Pantry Day which will be held in February. We will again be asking for your 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 6	Canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc), canned fruit
January 13	Canned vegetables, pork & beans, Ready meals ,soups, dried beans
January 20	Canned vegetables, canned fruit, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc.), Ready meals
January 27	Canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, soups, pork & beans

Coat Ministry

Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley

Clarksbury U.M.C. will be in its second year with our coat ministry. We are collecting new and **SLIGHTLY used** winter coats **ONLY** (PLEASE no sweaters or sweatshirts). These coats will be available to those in need during the cold months beginning November through March 2019. They will be on a rack in the church fellowship hall the first Saturday of each month at the Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry held at our church and at the winter food distribution. THANK YOU for contributing to this very important ministry of Clarksbury U.M.C. If you have any questions or would like to contribute in any way, please call Kathy Wright, chairperson, 757-373-9166 or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net or one of the members listed above. 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.

*I KNOW NOT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT I KNOW WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE.*



Nurture and Outreach Committee Jerry Dant

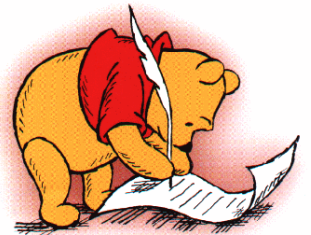
The Nurture and Outreach Committee would like to THANK all for the cards calls, gifts and visits to our home bound members in 2018. The outpouring of LOVE to our members and community has been great. The residents at Dockside have enjoyed the LOVE shared by members of CUMC and look forward to 2019. If you would like to volunteer in our Nursing Home Ministry, please let us know. HAPPY NEWS YEARS to all and we look forward to another year of LOVE to ALL.

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.

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

Annette Johnston **3/17**
Riverside Convalescent
Center
P.O Box 303
Saluda, VA 23149

Jean Cree
651 Riverwalk Parkway
Apt # 37
Chesapeake, VA 23320-
6819

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

JANUARY POP! (POWER OF PRAYER!)

From a May 2012 International Lesion Adult Bible Study, by
Randy Cross:



At a live Nativity scene at a church I served a number of years ago, the congregation arranged to have two sheep brought in and put in a pen for the three hours the live Nativity was displayed. I was there when the shepherd arrived with his sheep. The shepherd was not dressed a robe. He was wearing blue jeans, a brown jacket and gloves. Yet it was how he acted that shook my understanding of shepherds. He opened the gate of the trailer, reached in, and with one hand grabbed a sheep by the scruff of the neck and grasped its little tail with the other. This shepherd hoisted, shoved, and dropped the sheep into the pen before the sheep could even turn around; and then just as quickly, he put the other one in as well! I respected that kind of authority and expertise. The shepherd did not coax or try to convince the sheep that it might be in their best interests to walk over to the pen and find their resting place. Nor did he gently turn them around and apologize for making them go where they might not have wanted to go. He took charge and the sheep knew he was in charge. They knew their master.

For a moment, I imagined Jesus "handling" me as one of His sheep. Would he grab me by the scruff of the neck and drop me in a pen if that was necessary? Curiously, I did not think He would; but then again, we usually do no deal with straight-forward-act-with purpose shepherding of Jesus. . . until we get to the cleansing of the Temple. Yet maybe we should keep this image in mind more often. Maybe it would be good for us to imagine that sometimes our whining and our deal-making with God are not to be tolerated. Maybe there are times when we just need to expect a strong hand to grab us and put us where we should be, no questions asked. If we are in relationship with the "Shepherd," maybe our ideas need to reflect more of what the Shepherd wants instead of what we might want. It is an image worth pursuing . . .!

A Prayer for 2019

*Thank you, dear God for your Son, the good Shepherd. May He not only watch over us and keep us safe within your kingdom, but may we join Him in leading other to you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*



The Grapevine

January 2019



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

The deadline for the February 2019 Grapevine will be **Friday, January 25**. Send items to:
pwalian2@gmail.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 Connie Robertson

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

The Dobson family will serve as **ushers** for **January**