



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia March 2019

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NRSV)

²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (NRSV)

¹ As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

² For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,

⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We come to a time in the life of our Christian church year where we consider meditatively and prayerfully our relationship with our Creator and our brothers and sisters.

LENT which starts on Ash Wednesday, March 6, is much more than just a time to receive a mark of the cross on our foreheads and much more than just a time when we give up something in an effort to appear penitent and reflective and pious.

Clarksbury's Ash Wednesday service will be at noon on March 6. Later that same day at 6 p.m. there will be a service for prayer and meditation and **imposition of ashes**.

LENT can be a time when we look to where we are in our lives today and **ONLY IMAGINE** what our lives will be like when we are in the presence of our Creator, our Savior and the Holy Spirit.

LENT should be a time when we look at our lives and take stock of what our priorities are and focus on the life we are living.

²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

LENT could be the time for us to repent of the wrong direction in which we've been headed in our lives and to **ASK for forgiveness with contrite hearts** and to **accept in faith** the blessings of God's mercy and grace.

God has already done all that needs to be done for our **RECONCILIATION to GOD**. We can then step out with confidence on the path that Christ lays out for us...the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE...His way!!!

³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

This **LENT**, some Christians are still facing persecution, life threatening persecution, and we are called to remain faithful and persevere throughout by the power of the Lord through His strength no matter the consequences.

Our Lenten Bible Study ***Who is this Man?*** (a five-session study by John Ortberg) starts on Thursday, March 14, at 2 p.m. ***Who Is This Man?*** illustrates how Jesus' influence has swept over history, bringing his inspiration to the evolution of art, science, government, medicine, and education and how his vision for us to lead lives of dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope continues to inspire and challenge humanity today. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the social hall and the cost of a book is \$12.

We will be distributing food on Saturday, March 2, in partnership with the Cryer Center through their Mobile Food Pantry. Our Warming Tree and Coat Closet ministries will be open on Saturday at the same time as the food pantry so there will be plenty of work for all of those who show up from 9-11 a.m. These ministries will be providing people with gloves, hats, mufflers and scarves as well as coats, jackets and sweaters. If you have any questions regarding either of these ministries, contact Warren or Kathy Wright.

Philippi Church of Christ has the lead in our three-church rotation. With weather anticipated to be cold, we need to be mindful of layering clothing and limiting the amount of time our workers and those we serve will be outside. With this in mind it will be a good thing to have more people come and share in the labor so we can rotate more people outside for less individual exposure to the elements.

A topic still on most minds is the Called General Conference Session on February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. The reports of the decisions reached by the delegation and the impacts on our Connectional Church will be coming out shortly. Be in prayer for all those connected with this Session to be in the spirit throughout the conference. 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>

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed;¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Regardless of the trials and tribulations we suffer and encounter we know our redeemer has already given us everything!!! Rejoice in everything! We can press on to the goal that Jesus has for each of us.

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 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 let our Lenten devotions accomplish the eternal purpose He has for each and every one of us.

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.**

Jesus is alive, and we’re forgiven!

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

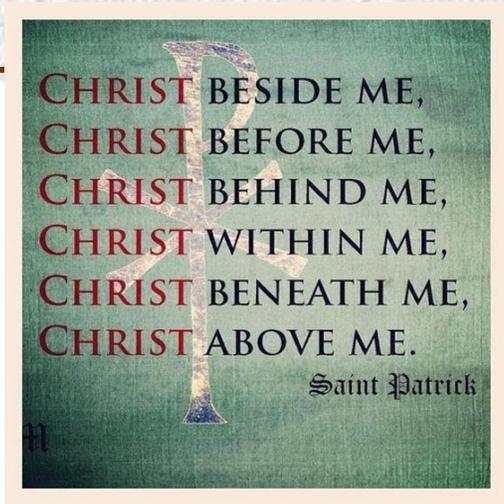
Annual Budget for 2019 Operating Funds:	\$114,935.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of February 2019:	16,301.00
Total Income Needed to Meet February Budget:	19,156.00

COFFEE HOUR FOR March

March	3	Val Bradley
March	10	Diane Faulkner
March	17	Joyce Smith
March	24	Polly VanBenschoten
March	31	Terry Cleveland



*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 meet on Monday March 25th at 7 PM for our monthly business meeting. At this meeting we will continue planning our 2019 activities. The UMM will be selling quarts of clam chowder (with 2 slices of corn bread and 2 cookies) on Friday March 15th from 4 PM to 6:30 PM. This will be take-out only and the cost is \$10.00.

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 Saint Patrick, The Shamrock, The Trinity 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.'"

Food Pantry Committee Winter Food Pantry A Success! Fran Miller



We would like to thank all the people who made the Winter Food Pantry such a success – from the volunteers who gave up their day to the people who donated food and/or money. On our distribution day, we were able to help **46 families**. We distributed **81 bags of groceries, 46 bags of toiletries, 46 loaves of bread, and 45 dozen eggs**. Thanks to the Soup Ministry, we were also able to distribute 46 quarts of soup. We also gave out winter coats, scarves, hats and gloves to those that needed them, thanks to our warming tree. 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! During the year, we continue to donate groceries to families asking for help, so when you go shopping, please pick up some items for our pantry! Again, thank you for all you have done.

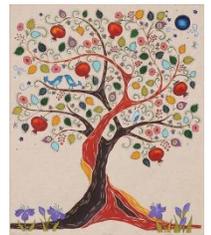
The Food Pantry Committee

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



The soup ministry distributed homemade soup (and a sleeve of crackers) at the Winter Food Pantry Distribution on Saturday, February 23, 2019 serving forty-six families. The soup ministry distributes homemade soup twice a month (the first and third Monday), year round, to families in the Deltaville community. If you know of someone that may benefit from this mission of Clarksbury U.M.C., **please** contact one of the members of the committee, listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless!

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



With much success last year with our warming tree ministry, at Clarksbury U.M.C., the warming tree items were again made available at the Winter Food Pantry Distribution on Saturday, February 23, 2019. This ministry has been focused through the winter season. There will be one last opportunity for recipients to receive these warming items on Saturday, March 1, when the Cryer Center Mobile Center food pantry will be at Clarksbury U.M.C. THANK YOU for supporting this very important ministry of your church. If you would like to help in any way, just contact one of the committee members listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless.

Coat Ministry

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



The Coat Rack was again made available at Clarksbury U.M.C. during the Winter Food Pantry Distribution on Saturday, February 23, 2019. These coats will be available to those in need on Saturday, March 1. This ministry has been focused through the winter months. 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.

Youth Choir

Becky Wilhite

The Youth Music Class meets with Becky Wilhite during the Sunday School hour each week to develop their musical skills in a nurturing Christian environment. Skills include singing and playing instruments while allowing each young person to contribute to the group effort of using music to the glory of God. Informally making music together in a non-judgmental environment has helped them to have confidence to perform occasionally for the morning worship service. Some share their singing talents while others play percussion instruments, choir chimes, acoustic and electric guitar, flute, saxophone, and horn. Also, learning basic piano when attendance is low has provided an opportunity for some of the youth to learn to read music and understand scales and chords since some of them have had more formal music instruction than others. Each week together is different, and the music often leads to discussions and prayers in a small group where the students can open up to each other and build relationships. The time together is tailored to meet their musical and spiritual needs as they mature, and hopefully, it provides one hour of their week where they are allowed to grow in whatever way they need at that specific time.

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.

A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight.



Nurture and Outreach Committee

Jerry Dant

Well, we have had another wet and cold month. However, we can look forward to warmer and pretty weather as we move forward to March and April. Let's try to visit our home bound members and they will enjoy the visit and I am sure you will enjoy the visit as much. Let's remember our member, Melvin Hawley, who has moved closer to family. Pastor Ken will be giving us his address when he gets it from his family and let's keep Melvin in our Prayers as he meets new friends.

Do you remember the Lenten Luncheon we all had together last year? Well, we are planning to have one this year and more about it in the April newsletter.

Outreach

LIFT CHILDREN OF MIDDLESEX

This ministry began in April of 2018. Since that time, Christians and church leaders from several churches have joined together. Flyers were made of Vacation Bible School for the county and posted throughout the county and churches. LIFT has had various Christian activities such as a family move night, Truck or Treat night, Urbanna Christmas Parade and an Easter Egg hunt is planned for April 13th on the school grounds at MES. More information will be in the April Newsletter

A letter will be sent out to all Middlesex County Churches inviting them to attend the next meeting at our church on March 18th at 5:30. Pastor Ken was at the last meeting and our church will furnish 1000 pieces of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Resurrection eggs will be part of the hunt as well as crafts, goodies and Christian literature. Why not join us at the meeting on March 18th at 5:30 to see how and where you can help with reaching the unchurched children of Middlesex. We want to plant seeds for God to Harvest. See you March 18th with love for children and ways we can work together for the Glory of God.

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
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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 River View on Appomattox 201 Eppes Street Hopewell, VA 23860
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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
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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
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Through a lot of trial and error in my thinking, and classes by those more learned than I, and lots of study, it seems the following is what my current feelings are of the things that make me feel that I am helping those that need.



- I want to help others and recognize the gift I bring with my **presence**.
- Being present to another sometimes **is a difficult task**.
- Learning to be **with the person**, rather than try to solve the problem. I can't solve it, but I do hope that my presence helps.
- Understanding others is enough. It is truly “standing under,” and uplifting of them is the goal.
- Being present is not the same as being nice to the them. Being nice is a form of discounting the other, of not taking seriously the irritating and demanding behavior that masks his/her pain.
- Allow them to have pain. **Learn to enter into it rather than try to take it away.**
- It is important to learn to not hear just the content of their message, but also the feelings and emotions about the content.
- When I feel lost in an interaction, I ask myself, “What is this person trying to reveal to me? What is the meaning or purpose of his/ her communication with me?”
- When we are aware of our own feelings we can **respond** to others **rather than react** to them. Reacting means meeting the other's feeling with your feelings. Responding means meeting his/her feelings with understanding.
- Learning to hear and not become part of the conflict by taking sides.
- To minimize their feelings about their life is to discount the other. **False cheering up is a form of discounting.** The person may feel obligated to feel happier for your sake. The meeting of our own need creates an illusion of well- being.

It is hard, but very much doable if this is your calling. Only you and God know if
if it is your calling. But no matter what, any of you can make their day with just a
visit to any one of the residents. Remember, you're getting old too.

Peace and Grace Fred

Obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MARCH POP!

A prayer of St Patrick

May the wisdom of God instruct me, the eye of
God watch over me, the ear of God hear me, the
Word of God give me sweet talk, the hand of God
defend me, the way of God guide me.

Christ be with me.

Christ before me.

Christ in me.

Christ under me.

Christ over me.



Christ on my right hand.

Christ on my left hand.

Christ on this side.

Christ on that side.

Christ in the head of everyone to who I speak.

Christ in the mouth of every person who speaks t me.

Christ in the eye of every person who looks upon me.

Christ in the ear of everyone who hears me today.

Amen



The Grapevine

March 2019



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

The deadline for the April 2019 Grapevine will be Monday, March 25. Send items to:

pwalian2@gmail.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 Warren Wright

Counters for **March** are Fran Miller and Terry Cleveland
Anne Tompkins and Diane Faulkner will serve as **ushers** for **March**