



### Our Mission:

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

### Editor's Note:

Happy New Year to my church family!

I hope you all had a joyful and blessed **CHRIST**mas! I am so sad that it has already come and gone but am ready to embark upon a New Year filled with new surprises, new challenges and new perspective. I hope you are too! With all of this "new" in my life I thought it was a great time to make a "new" newsletter template with a fresh look and some other information at your fingertips should you need it such as the monthly scripture readings (this can change from time to

time after printing) a list of important phone numbers and an updated look. ***Special thanks to Sierra Funk for her help in this newsletter rebirth.***

Her knowledge of the publisher program is quite amazing! I hope that you will enjoy it. I am open to hearing what else you may want to see in the newsletter on a regular basis too. If you have any suggestions don't hesitate to give me a jingle at 869-4974 or send an email to: [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto:pwalian2@gmail.com).

Enjoy January!

Petra

### Monthly

### Scriptures :

**Jan 2- Matthew 2:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12  
(NRSV)**

**Jan 9- Luke 3:15-17,21-22  
Luke 3:15-22 (NRSV)**

**Jan 16- John 2:1-11  
John 2:1-11 (NRSV)**

**Jan 23- Luke 4:14-21  
Luke 4:14-21 (NRSV)**

**Jan 30- Luke 4:21-30  
Luke 4:21-30 (NRSV)**



## Pastor Ken's Corner

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)**

**<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

**<sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."**

**<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!!!

Who is focusing on the New Year and new opportunities with expectations and excitement? We don't start with a totally clean slate; there are usually a few of those items we wanted to accomplish last year that we carry forward into the New Year.

Some will make New Year's resolutions for changes in their priorities, motivations and goals. Some will renew their goals from last year with an effort to be more successful THIS year.

January can be a re-boot in our priorities and a focus of our energies. Some of our priorities shouldn't change, however. They include God, family and community.

**<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."**

January is a time of expectations: wondering about changes in the economy, how we cope with COVID (and variants of) restrictions, and changes in our work to accommodate and be successful in this changing environment.

In John the Baptist's time, people were desperate for the Messiah to come and free them from the rule of Rome and the burden of taxes and earthly oppression. John cautions them that the Messiah is more powerful than himself and the Messiah is not coming to make their world more comfortable according to their worldly ideas of improvement. There will be radical changes that most will have to make in their priorities and daily lives with regard to their faith and service to God and treatment of their brothers and sisters.

**<sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."**

The people will need to make changes or suffer the consequences.

*<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*

Luke finishes this passage with a description of how the baptism of Jesus is awesomely different from all the other baptisms he has been conducting. John was baptizing with water for repentance. All were praying, and then the *Holy Spirit descended upon him (Jesus) in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire for repentance and forgiveness.

A new heavenly pronouncement and an announcement of authority are projected upon Jesus and an endorsement of Jesus' ministries from God above. A new era has come into the relationship between God and man. Jesus is to be our salvation from the wages of sin demonstrated by His teaching; His examples of love and forgiveness; His demonstrations of authority and power over earth (calming stormy seas); sickness (healing lepers and many others); death itself (Jairus' daughter and Lazarus); and culminating in His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection.

We should be mindful of Jesus' teachings and lessons and examples and follow His lead as He is the way, the truth and the life that leads to the everlasting! Use Him as a pathway for your New Year's resolutions. Breathe the spirit of Christ-like behavior and love into you plans for this New Year of 2022.

We close out a tumultuous year. 2021 has been challenging and Clarksbury has persevered by the Grace of God. We have restored many of our pre-COVID ministries and outreach. We have improvised and modified our worship services and communion and have continued to provide faithful and vibrant ministries at Clarksbury.

I pray we can continue these ministries even in light of the new variant of OMICRON COVID. Our PRG/HCT will review and adjust our actions based upon our LOCAL environment and guidance from the Conference and health officials.

I want to **restate the goals** for the coming year that I shared last month with you. We managed to stay connected and involved in our community; we will continue to do so.

**Goal number one** is to maintain our connection with our community regardless of how difficult it might become with COVID restrictions. We will continue to innovate and use new technologies to worship. We have had small groups meet at back patios and around fire pits at other homes. Our last Sunday in the month Gospel Sing will continue.

**Goal Number two** is to continue to be flexible and innovative when it comes to finding ways, locations, methods and opportunities to be worshipful and to remain connected as we progress with all the COVID restrictions, and yet maintain safety.

You guys have been so resilient throughout the pandemic and we have still worshipped together, we have continued to lift our voices in praise together, and have served our community together. Terry and I are happy to be part of YOUR ministries at Clarksbury.

We have our **Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, January 1, (rain or shine)** from 9-11 a.m. We always have room for more help. Come and see how this works. In the next few months come prepared for whatever weather we get.

COVID restrictions and protocols are relaxed but many still remain, and we must keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **and in some cases is elevated again with the recent variant...OMICRON**. For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We continue to lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.

Our Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) came up with a Mitigation Assistance Plan and we will continue with that plan. We will continue to monitor the local situation and, as necessary, make adjustments.

We continue to acknowledge the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** each month. They provide meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and phone calls to many of our members as well as those at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Our **Warming Tree** is up in the social hall with directions provided for participating in this ministry. If you have questions, contact Kathy Wright or me.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to explore new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or suffer from the illness.

Happy New Year from Terry and me!

**Peace & Grace,**

**Pastor Ken**

## LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

### What's this thing we call Stewardship?

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 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 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 straight-forwardness? 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 Christian author, Max Lucado, put it this way, "You don't give for God's sake. You give for your sake. The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives". 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 approximately 45 "Giving Envelopes" for 2022 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

**Thanks for your faithfulness and may God richly bless you in 2022.**

**Matthew 6:4 "so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you".**



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE — DAVID DOBSON

Happy New Year! What now? Although we celebrate the coming of a new year and “out with the old”, not much really has changed. We still live in a world of sickness, poverty, perversion, and warfare. We make resolutions yet often lack the willpower to follow through. Yes, that includes me. Perhaps we need to drill down and keep it simple this year. Resolve to be more Christian or Christ like.

Jesus was killed because he upset the teachings, positions, and preferences of the religious leaders of his day. He teaches were firmly rooted in scripture, but many scriptures had not been lived out by the religious leadership. Specifically, Jesus called out the fact that what they preached was often true, but how they lived their lives was far from God’s plan.

Matthew 23:2-12, in short can be summed up “practice what you preach.” It ends with the memorable scripture “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” That is how we show we are true Christians. My resolution is therefore simple:

***Know the Word of God:*** Jesus makes the point that we have to read God’s Word, teach and share it, and live it out. It’s not enough to just be doing one or two of these. We need to strive to strive to live out all three.

***Be humble.*** There is not a better example of humility then Jesus. As God humbled himself to serve us we are called to humbly serve others. We are not called to tackle a list of 4,596 things for God or make a long list of resolutions. We are simply asked to serve others in the way God modeled humility and service to us.

We need to all start approaching all of life with an attitude of humility and a heart for service, just as Jesus so powerfully did for us. This is the only way to leave this mortal sphere “alive.”

**Worship Committee Meeting, 1/9/2022** following the service (1215) in the parlor. Items to discuss:

- CUMC Worship Structure
- Spring Picnic/ Music Event??
- Summer VBS or Special Event???

May the Lord bless your life in ways seen and unseen so that we all can proclaim the Glory of God!

## Ministries:

### UMM

The UMM's next regular monthly business meeting will be on Monday January 24th at 7 PM. At this meeting we will be making our final plans for our take-out spaghetti dinner on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM. Cost will be \$12.00. The dinner includes spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, homemade French bread, salad, and dessert. Remember there is 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.**

### UMW

The UMW is currently seeking to fill the position of Chairwoman. If you find it in your heart to serve in this capacity, please contact Fran Miller.

### NURTURE & OUTREACH

Thanks to all who remembered our home bound members during the holidays. Let's remember with coming colder weather each one would appreciate a call, card, or visit. The days can get long with early darkness so let's brighten their day with one of the above.

“God loves us so  
that we can pass it  
onto others.”



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

Lewis Musick  
6023 Dixon Lane  
Gloucester, Va., 23061

Marion Miller 08/06  
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @  
Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive  
Gloucester, VA 23061

Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24  
26306 Mattaponi Trail  
Milford, VA 22514

## Ministries and ETC:

### SOUP AND WARMING



At the request of our soup ministry recipients, soup was not delivered during June, July, and August. We have now started our third Monday-of-the-month in September. We currently deliver only once a month because we now deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday of each month to our recipients. If you would like to make some homemade soup for our recipients, just let one of the committee members listed above know. Four soup containers (quart size) are provided, make any variety, and return your soup to the church.

Our warming tree ministry and coat rack ministry will be available the first Saturday of each month beginning the first Saturday in November through the first Saturday of March. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be putting a table outside with the warming items, weather permitting, otherwise, you may contact Pastor Ken and he will be able to help you obtain the needed warming items. If you would like to provide any of these warming items, our warming tree will be in the fellowship hall for you to place your items.

### Church Service Assistants for the month of January

#### Ushers:

*David and Petra Dobson*

#### Scripture Reader:

#### Counters:

*Polly Vanbanschoten and Cheryl Teagle*

*Open Hearts Open Minds  
Open Doors*

Deadline for the February Newsletter is Monday, February 21!

Please send your emails and articles to [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto:pwalian2@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter.

**Follow us on**

**Facebook!**

**Check out our**

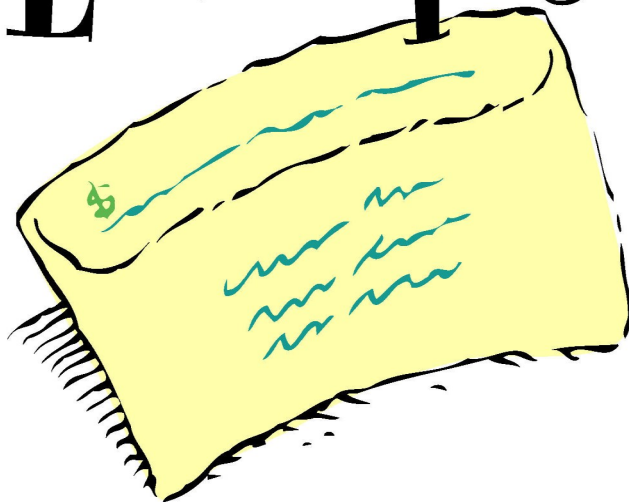
**Website**

<b>Annual Budget 2021 Operating Funds</b>	<b>115,711.00</b>
<b>Total Received for Operating Funds 12/21</b>	
<b>Total Needed for</b>	



Don't forget to pick yours  
up in the social hall!

## Offering Envelopes



Clarksbury Christmas Caroling

### Church Leadership:

#### *Spiritual Leader:*

Ken Cleveland  
(276) 224-4935  
kencleveland@vaumc.org

#### *Church Council Chair:*

Lee White  
(804) 832-9450  
leewhite0105@gmail.com

#### *Director of Music:*

Becky Wilhite  
(804) 832-2003  
bwilhite4@verizon.net

#### *Lay Leader:*

Warren Wright  
(804) 241-5686  
wright@va.metrocast.net

#### *Financial Secretary:*

Suzanne Ramsburg  
(804) 815-6989  
ssramsburg@va.metrocast.net

#### *Trustees Committee Chair:*

Don Bartz  
(804) 338-4872  
dbartz@gmail.com

#### *Worship Committee Chair:*

Dave Dobson  
(757) 619-2444  
ddobson67@gmail.com

#### *Nurture & Outreach Chair:*

Jerry Dant  
(804) 776-6975  
jerryd1935@msn.com

#### *Recording Secretary:*

Betty & Carl Tate  
B: (804) 347-2461  
C: (804) 916-9969

## *January Power of Prayer*

### A New Year's Prayer

Author Unknown

May God make your year a happy one.  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Now by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

## Three Teaching Points for Epiphany

BY SARAH BENTLEY ALLRED Excerpted from UMC.org

The church celebrates Epiphany on Jan. 6 each year, 12 days after Christmas Day. On Epiphany, we recall the arrival of the wise men to visit the newborn baby Jesus. The season of Epiphany stretches from Jan. 6 until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The season varies in length because the date of Easter changes yearly. Epiphany might be as long as nine weeks or as short as four weeks. While the season of Epiphany does not get as much hype as the preceding seasons of Advent and Christmas, it is an important time of the church year nonetheless. After all the December celebrations die down, Epiphany reminds us that Christmas is just the beginning of the story. **THE MAGI** While secular culture generally celebrates Christmas on a single day, the church extends the celebration of Jesus' birth until the arrival of the magi on Jan. 6. Most of us are familiar with the story of the wise men from the popular hymn *We Three Kings*. They follow a star to find the Christ child and bring him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1-12) Epiphany is a good opportunity to expound on some of the details of the story that make the magi so remarkable. First, the wise men are paying attention. They "observed his star at its rising" and realized it was a sign (Matthew 2:2). Second, the wise men trust God's guidance. They leave their country and travel a great distance without knowing exactly where they are going. After finding the Christ child, the three kings are warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they diligently leave "for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:12). Third, the magi humbled themselves at the sight of an infant king in a manger: "They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him hom-

age." (Matthew 2:11) Despite the odd circumstances – a baby born to an unwed, un-wealthy mother in a barn – the magi presented Jesus with gifts fit for a king born under very different circumstances. This beautiful, odd story foretells the many ways Jesus' life will reverse worldly expectations. Despite how the Holy Family might appear to the townsfolk of Bethlehem, the magi's visit identifies Jesus as a king. Furthermore, the magi have crossed international borders. They come from a foreign country to mark Jesus as a king for all people. **BAPTISM AND THE TRINITY** On the first Sunday after Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. It is an especially appropriate day for baptism. Many United Methodist worship services that day include a remembrance of baptism. It is also a good opportunity to teach about the Trinity, as it is one of the few places in scripture where all three persons of the Trinity are revealed together: as Jesus is being baptized a spirit descends on him and a voice says, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) Jesus is revealed as the Son of God and the third person of the Trinity. **REVEALING JESUS** Beginning with the visit of the magi and the Baptism of our Lord, the lectionary for the season of Epiphany reveals more and more about Jesus as the weeks go by. The stories of Epiphany depict Jesus as a king, the Son of God, a leader, a healer and a teacher. There is certainly continuity within this season, the theme of revelation ties the season together as we encounter different layers of Jesus' identity, but there is also great flexibility within Epiphany. Teaching topics could vary from how Jesus is revealed in our lives today to a series on the baptismal covenant or the healing power of faith.

February 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Lee White</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> <i>Cheryl Teagle</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Al Wild</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Lucy Blevins</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Susan</i> <i>Valencia</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Terry</i> <i>Cleveland</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Abigail Foster</i> <i>Amber Clark</i>
<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>					

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.)