

The Grapevine

Our Mission:

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

Editor's Note:

Is it really spring? We have definitely witnessed erratic weather this month and celebrated a cold mother's day. Historically speaking these fluctuations have been happening over the years and sometimes it is just hard to remember those details. In the month of May, we celebrate Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Ascension Day; but we also celebrate Heritage Day. Heritage Day is on May 22 this year and is a day that United Methodists remember and reflect on their legacy. We have

a detailed write up of our history found at the website clarks-buryumc.com if you would like to remember our beginnings. History is a vehicle to understand how the past made things the way they are today, but it is also a compelling way to help us create new paths as we move ahead.

In Christian Love Petra

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Monthly Scriptures :

May 1 :

John 21:1-19

May 8:

John 10: 22-30

May 15 :

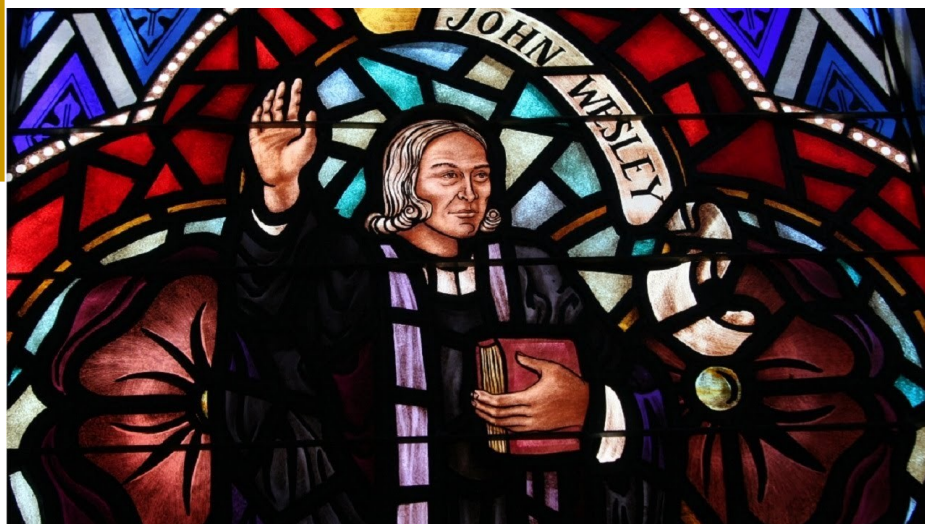
John 13:31-35

May 22 :

John 14:23-29

May 29:

Luke 24:44-53



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Pastor Ken's Corner

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

We are into the **Easter Season!** He Is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

What Glorious Music and Services for Holy Week & Easter and the Sundays after. **Thank You Becky and Ann** and our Choir for Lovely service and Easter atmosphere. We Are Blessed!

Those flowers are blooming, and the pollen is very heavy. What a lovely Living Cross we had this year and an awesome series of Combined services with Philippi and Zoar for Holy week and Easter.

I am so happy to be back in our post COVID worship posture. I think I have learned a lesson NOT to take those attributes of fellowship and contact in our worship and service and witness for granted. Let us strive to be more willing to serve and more appreciative of our opportunities for service. It's been said you don't miss something till it is taken away from you.

Speaking of which, we are back with our Sunday morning Adult Sunday School with **Paul Russell** teaching the course with Warren and Connie backing up as needed. Hallelujah! I know this has been one aspect that many were anxious to resume. Thank you, Paul, for stepping up.

This year in this **Season Of Easter** while we continue our service to the Lord, let us take no opportunity for service for granted. Let us rather, look for new ways to engage with our community and friends.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer.

Jesus was Glorified on **Easter** and God was glorified through Jesus, we remember that Jesus was with His disciples for only a short period of time in the flesh. But, He promised to never leave us nor desert us, rather, to be with us always even to the ends of the Earth. We celebrate at **Easter a Resurrection** that occurred over 2,000 years ago. We celebrate The **Holy Spirit** with us always as our advocate and counselor. Jesus is with us always!

This Saturday May 7, 2022 is our Mobile Food Pantry with the Cryer Center from 9-11 AM everyone is invited to come and help or if you are unable to attend in person keep us and our clients in your prayers.

34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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Pastor Ken's Note Continued

These Services, food pantry; meals on wheels; and other ministries; we provide to our community as **our outreach**. Each service is an example of Clarksbury living into our obedience to Christ's New Commandment to LOVE one another. Just as Jesus has Loved us. It's not that we are doing good deeds because we are good people. We are performing Loving witness to our community to demonstrate that we are disciples of Jesus

Jesus Has Died! Jesus Is Risen! Jesus will Come Again!

We should be mindful of Jesus's Teachings and Lessons and Examples, **Just as his disciples did**, 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 Easter Service.

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.

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.

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.



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LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

A Mother's Love

A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper, and handed her a piece of paper that he had been writing on. After his Mom dried her hands on an apron, she read it, and this is what it said:

For cutting the grass: \$5.00
 For cleaning up my room this week: \$1.00
 For going to the store for you: \$.50
 Baby-sitting my kid brother while you went shopping: \$.25
 Taking out the garbage: \$1.00
 For getting a good report card: \$5.00
 For cleaning up and raking the yard: \$2.00
 Total owed: \$14.75

Well, his mother looked at him standing there, and the boy could see the memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper he'd written on, and this is what she wrote:

For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me: **No Charge**
 For all the nights that I've sat up with you, doctored and prayed for you: **No Charge**
 For all the trying times, and all the tears that you've caused through the years: **No Charge**
 For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: **No Charge**
 For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: **No Charge**
 Son, when you add it up, the cost of my love is: **No Charge**.

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at his mother and said, "Mom, I sure do love you." And then he took the pen and in great big letters he wrote: **"PAID IN FULL"**

A Mother's Day Prayer

Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. We pray you give each mom strength. We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. May each mother find rest in you. Amen.



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Many of you have asked how to Support Ukraine in this time of turmoil and War...

This is the official UMCOR Data Any questions call or text me or Suzanne or Warren

I recommend We make donations for Ukraine to the church and we will send a combined offering from the Church, which I think will be the easiest way to do that. Make your Check out to Clarksbury UMC and put Advance #982450-Ukraine in the memo line and the Church will collect and send as one gift or many as these events could be long continuing time wise.

Info and Links Below for further reading:

Second, a Good Solution:

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in wake of the Ukranian crisis can contribute through UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance...>

By toll-free telephone: [888-252-6174](tel:888-252-6174)

By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with 'Advance #982450-Ukraine' written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, PO Box 9068, New York, NY, [10087-9068](tel:100879068), or given at or through any United Methodist church

Important Note: 100% of all advance contributions go to the designated cause.

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

Here is a link to the UMCOR site about this effort: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/ukraine>

Memorial Day likely conjures up memories for all of us. Mine start from when I was too young to know what the day meant. When I was a young boy, it was a family time, a holiday from school or other obligations, and a time for picnics, multi-generational baseball games in an open field, and reunions with seldom-seen relatives.

Over the years I have gained a much greater appreciation for this day and what it means. From my first assignment in Vietnam to my last in Germany, I was continually reminded of the extraordinary sense of commitment and service in the young men and women with whom I was privileged to serve.

The Last Full Measure of Devotion

During my last assignment, as 33rd commander of the US Air Forces in Europe, I routinely received invitations to speak at memorial events at one or more of the many cemeteries in Europe where young Americans are interred. I was particularly moved by an event in Paris at the Arc de Triomphe.

The heavy traffic that normally circles that beautiful edifice at a frantic pace had been stopped, and a crowd had gathered to remember and honor French and American men and women who had given their lives in the horrible wars of the 20th century. Many living veterans of those conflicts wore the uniform they had first donned at a much earlier age, and some of them still bore the scars of war. It was humbling to be in their company that day.

For four decades, I was honored to serve with thousands of dedicated young men and women. Some of them would die in service to their country. We were extremely sad at their loss as we comforted their loved ones and each other. They gave their very best, and we were reminded that we must do the same. They died serving something bigger than themselves—the transcendent ideals that make America the country we cherish.

For us as Christians, this day should have an even more poignant meaning. Many of the same values that our nation hopes to nurture and the traits military members are challenged to embody are consistent with those perfectly modeled for us by our Savior. He was the quintessential example of service and sacrifice.

In his letter to the Roman church, the apostle Paul said, “Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God

demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:7–8).

But before he died, he lived. Boy, did he live! To the consternation of those watching him, he invited himself to the home of a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus, he challenged the hypocrisy of religious leaders by coming to the rescue of a prostitute, he exposed the meaninglessness of their religiosity by healing the sick on the Sabbath, and he challenged bigotry and insensitivity by publicly engaging in conversation with a Samaritan woman that his society said was unworthy of his time.

As Christians, this example is our heritage also, regardless of our earthly citizenship. Citizenship in his kingdom, after all, is the one that counts. Do not mistake what I am saying. I am grateful every day for that I am a citizen of America, and there is no other place on earth I would rather call home. Like most Americans, I am here by virtue of circumstances over which I had no control. I cannot explain it. I can just be thankful for it.

Patriotism and Piety

As I now view life in America as a private citizen, I am struck by the similarity of our expressions of patriotism and faith. Occasionally I wonder if we get the cross and the flag confused. As American Christians, we are indeed twice-blessed, but we should not get the two confused. America is an imperfect place, an unfinished project, an ideal we hope to make a reality.

Our citizenship in the kingdom of God is a gift extended to us freely by God’s grace. Paul told the Ephesian Christians, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8–10).

The society in which Jesus lived also had many problems. There was hypocrisy, bigotry, poverty, and oppression of the weak by the strong, and he condemned all of that. America is probably a better place than that for even the most marginalized of our citizens, but it is not always what it should be for all of us. As Christians, regardless of our earthly citizenship, this is part of the work he left us to do. Is it our duty as Americans? Yes, it is—but even more so as citizens of his kingdom.

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I do not always understand how God's providence works. I cannot explain why those extraordinary individuals we now call our "founding fathers" came together when they did. They created a country based on their belief that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights." Their belief in these universal, eternal truths—however imperfect their understanding and expression of those truths—yielded a society in which people of faith can function with more freedom than anywhere else in the world.

Does this mean that God favors America? I often hear people express that belief, but what I read in his Word is that he favors people who rely on him, who place their trust in him, and who proclaim him as their God, regardless of their earthly citizenship. Does that ensure their health and wealth and a life of ease? No, it ensures us of the opportunity to be his sons and daughters, to tell others of the salvation that was freely given to us, to share in his suffering, and to live with him eternally.

The American writer Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, once said we should give loyalty to our country always and to the government when it deserves it. I believe he meant that our only true loyalty is to those eternal principles to which governments aspire but do not always demonstrate. There may well come times when our government takes a path we cannot in good conscience follow, and we must stand where God stands. But it is right that we devote time to remember and honor those fellow citizens who gave their all for us—we are forever in their debt.

Living a Life of Service

Most Americans will never serve in the military—actually less than one percent of our population do so. And even among those of us who do, very, very few of us are asked to give that last full measure of devotion. So what is the question for us on this day as we remember those Americans who died on our behalf? I believe that question is — for what shall we live?

Whether or not we wear the uniform of our country, we all have a service to offer, a service to those ideals that reflect God's universal truths and that our American ancestors captured in the formation of this country. When Jesus left this earth to take his place at the right hand of the Father,

he left us, his bride, the church, to carry on his work. So when evil strikes in the form of a school shooting or when nature unleashes its fury and devastates property and lives, when children suffer, when people are hungry or homeless and ask "Where is God?!" we must be there and have them see him in us.

We must bring his comfort and his healing to this world. When we live lives of service to those around us, we honor the God who saved us and we honor all those who gave that last full measure to secure for us all the things we enjoy in this nation.

Someday we will find ourselves at the end of our lives looking back, and we will ask ourselves what it was all for. At that moment, we will all want to recall a life of service to something larger than ourselves, to children who needed our teaching and our example of service, to people whom we gave a hand up in time of need, to friends and colleagues whom we comforted in times of sorrow, lives with whom we shared the many physical and spiritual blessings that have been bestowed on us. If we live that life of service, we will have fulfilled the challenge of the Savior when he said, "Whatever you did for one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40).

So on Memorial Day, and every day, we need to ask ourselves, for what shall we live? How are we doing at fulfilling not just the ideals of our American forefathers but those universal values set in place by the one who made us in his image, who sent his only begotten son to secure our salvation, the one who "created us in him to do good works?"

Roger Brady retired as a general from the United States Air Force. He speaks and writes on principled leadership and serves as minister of adult education in his local congregation. His books include *Forget Success!!* and *Nothing Has Changed*.

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Ministries:

UMM

The UMM's next regular monthly business meeting will be on Monday May 23rd at 7 PM. At this meeting, the men will be planning their summer season activities. Remember 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.

RECOVERING

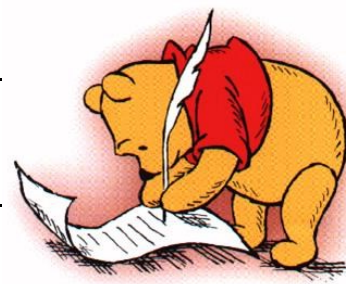
Betty Johnson
Connie Robertson
Jinny Wells

Nurture & Outreach Jerry Dant

Please continue to send cards, make phone calls and visits to our homebound members! You are doing such a great job lifting the spirits of our members and it is something we always need to strive for! We have added several names to our homebound list in the May newsletter. Connie Robertson, Val Bradley, Betty Johnson, and Jinny Wells would really appreciate a card as they are recovering from their health issues. It is always nice to be remembered while recovering.

Sunday School has returned for the first time since the pandemic with Paul Russell leading the class. It is great to be back in Sunday School after such an extended absence. We will also be welcoming home our college students this month and look forward to hearing of their adventures this year and what their plans are for the summer. We look forward to hearing from all of them. Let's keep them in Prayer as they finish exams and make the journey home!

"May sunshine surround you each new day. And may smiles and love never be far away. "



Val Bradley (7/4)
P.O. Box 467
Deltaville, VA 23043

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

Betty Johnson (804)684-3618 (4/26)
Dockside Health & Rehab Ctr
74 Mizpah Road Room 504
Locust Hill VA 23092

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

Connie Robertson (7/28)
74 spring Cove Lane
Topping, VA 23169

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

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Ministries and ETC:



**Mobile Food Pantry - Clarks-
bury United Methodist**

Saturday, June 4, 2022

9:00am-11:00am

**Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043, United
States**



Church Service Assistants for the month of May

Ushers:

Betty Farmer and Becky Foster

Scripture Reader:

Betty Farmer

Counters:

Warren Wright and Betty Tate

*Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors*

Deadline for the June Newsletter is
Monday, April 25!

Please send your emails and
articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for
inclusion in the newsletter.

Follow us on

[Facebook!](#)

Check out our

[Website](#)

Annual Budget 2022 Operating Funds	120,298.00
Total Received for Operating Funds 05/01	36,881.00
Total Needed by end of May	13,243.17

MOTHERS OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD

P	Q	W	E	R	T	J	O	C	H	E	B	E	D	R	F
E	H	F	G	F	E	C	D	C	F	V	G	B	N	H	J
J	O	A	C	G	D	E	A	A	F	R	C	V	R	G	B
F	P	T	R	E	B	E	K	A	H	Y	I	I	S	N	M
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E	A	R	F	R	M	L	I	U	R	H	G	N	U	N	R
H	A	E	B	I	O	O	O	J	F	Y	T	H	K	M	Y
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S	F	G	B	Y	N	L	M	P	O	I	J	H	G	E	K
F	H	J	L	O	M	N	B	V	C	S	D	E	R	F	R

EVE

SARAH

REBEKAH

RACHEL

JOCHEBED

PHARAOHS DAUGHTER

NAOMI

HANNAH

ELIZABETH

MARY

THE GRAPEVINE

Clarksbury has Fun!



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
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Financial Secretary:

Suzanne Ramsburg
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Trustees Committee Chair:

Don Bartz
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ddobson67@gmail.com

Nurture & Outreach Chair:

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

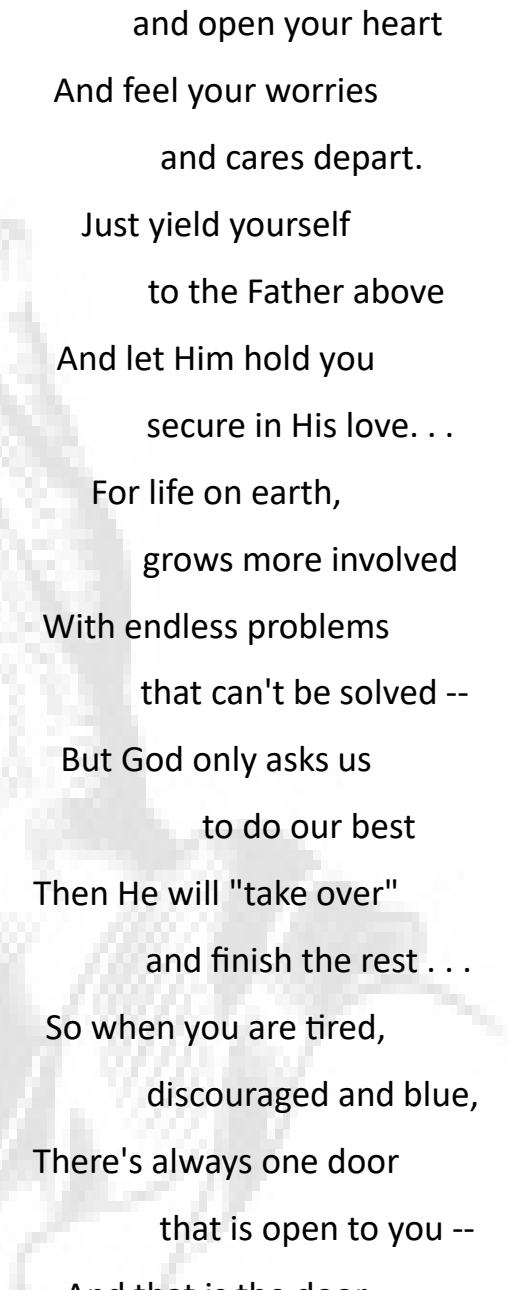
Recording Secretary:

Betty & Carl Tate
B: (804) 347-2461
C: (804) 916-9969
ctate-dville@hotmail.com

THE GRAPEVINE

May Power of Prayer

On The Wings OF Prayer by Helen Steiner Rice



Just close your eyes
and open your heart
And feel your worries
and cares depart.
Just yield yourself
to the Father above
And let Him hold you
secure in His love. . .
For life on earth,
grows more involved
With endless problems
that can't be solved --
But God only asks us
to do our best
Then He will "take over"
and finish the rest . . .
So when you are tired,
discouraged and blue,
There's always one door
that is open to you --
And that is the door
to "The House of Prayer"
And you'll find God waiting
to meet you there. . .



MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Melanie Glenn	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day Paul Bisogno	9	10	11	12	13	14 Jaime Mears
15	16 Charles Decker	17 Christopher Glenn	18	19	20 Morgan Smith Logan Smith Kimberly South	21
22 Heritage Sunday Betty Chenowith	23	24 Jim Salmon	25	26	27	28
29 Ascension Sunday	30 Memorial Day	31				

May *Birthdays* (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)