



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia
www.clarksburyumc.com

March 2016

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

⁵ *Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,* ⁶ *who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,* ⁷ *but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,* ⁸ *he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.* ⁹ *Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,* ¹⁰ *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ¹¹ *and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

How have you been doing with your Lenten disciplines? These are spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, fasting and service for others.

Have you been able to spend time with the Word? Have you been able to spend quality time with the Lord? Have you been able to carve out quality time for some heart-to-heart conversation with the Creator of the universe?

Or...have the days run together quickly and the pressures and commitments of the world overwhelmed you and left you frazzled and frustrated? Just because we know what spiritual disciplines are does not mean that we are adept and skilled at carrying them out.

The Lenten luncheons are going wonderfully with two completed and four more to go. I've heard that the meals have been great and the messages have been uplifting and filling as well. We do need bread and nourishment for our bodies. Yet we need the "bread of life"...the Word of God as well to nourish our spirits—not JUST during LENT but each and every day, 24/7, day in day out.

On the District level, we have many opportunities for training as well as fellowship. Safe Sanctuary Training takes place Saturday, February 27, in Williamsburg. Bishop Cho is

meeting with Prayer Covenant churches on Sunday, February 28, at 3 p.m. in Yorktown at St. Luke's UMC. He will also be conducting the Bishop's Convocation on Prayer at Trinity UMC in Richmond on March 5. See me for more information on the agenda and activities. It should be a full day of good information on prayer.

Jesus tells us that we must love our Father with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to love one another as Jesus has loved us. That is much easier said than done...right?

Paul tells us that we should follow in the path of Jesus, to imitate His humility...to *"5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."*

Again, just because we KNOW what we should do doesn't mean we have the will power and determination to DO it. Let the same mind that was in Christ be in each of us. May the work of Christ be alive in what we say and do.

Sometimes putting ourselves with others who are practicing spiritual routines can help. The Lenten luncheons, the Bible Study and other studies here at church or other locations, serving meals to others, taking food to shut-ins, calling and talking to others with whom we haven't connected for too long a time...these are a few things which are available to us all. We can and SHOULD look at the people around us. We SHOULD imitate Christ in His involvement in our lives and the lives of our sisters and brothers.

The Adam Hamilton Bible Study, *John...The Gospel of Light and Life*, on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. is going very well, and it is a study that **anyone** can join at any point during the next few weeks and still have it benefit their spiritual lives.

The Essentials of Methodism Study...Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m...though not **"technically"** a Bible Study...provides any of us, new or old hands at Methodism, with a greater understanding of our heritage and worship methods.

Events scheduled for Holy Week and Easter are as follows:

- † **Palm/Passion Sunday**, March 20
- † **Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday Service**, March 24, at **Clarksbury UMC** at 7 p.m.
- † **Community Good Friday Service**, March 25, at **Philippi** at 7 p.m.
- † **Contemporary Saturday Evening Service**, March 26, at 5 p.m.
- † **Easter Sunrise Service**, March 27, at **Stingray Point** with **Zoar Baptist** leading the worship service at 7 a.m.

Lenten lunches continue at Clarksbury; the schedule of speakers is as follows:

- †March 2 – Rev. Grant Ambrose – Ware Episcopal Church
- †March 9 – Rev. Ileana Rosario – Lower UMC
- †March 16 – Rev. June Haislip – Philippi Christian Church
- †March 23 – Rev. John Choi – Central UMC

All are invited to come, have a great meal, and hear some uplifting preaching and worship.

Again, as your Lay leader and Church Council will continue to encourage you, we need to consider and live into being a Prayer Covenant Congregation as described by Bishop Cho.

Clergy and laity are invited to spend one hour each day in spiritual disciplines (fasting, prayer, spiritual reading, a service of common prayer, etc.).

- 1. Having at least one group that prays each week for the renewal and revival of the congregation, the conference and the United Methodist Church.**
- 2. Offering at least one class on prayer annually.**
- 3. Participating in conference or district prayer training events.**
- 4. Moving toward at least 10% of the laity practicing one-hour daily spiritual disciplines.**
- 5. Indicating commitment to this covenant through approval by the Church Council.**

As Paul tells us, we imitate Jesus in many ways to put ourselves in the right perspective with our Lord and Creator. On bended knee we bring all our victories and praises, all our troubles and worries to God, and we confess that Jesus is LORD...to the Glory of God. ⁹ *Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,* ¹⁰ *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ¹¹ *and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...YOU are all part of God's Work HERE. The Soup Ministry, Meals on Wheels, the Mobile Food Panty and all of the other ministries connected to the Cryer Center and HANDS, and the Spring and Fall Food Drives to name just a few...and in each encounter for each of us in our community!!!

And...PRAY...PRAY...PRAY...In ALL WAYS, ALWAYS.

Believe it... and act as though you DO believe it...and REVIVE your LOVE of GOD, CHRIST and THE HOLY SPIRIT...**AMEN**

**Grace & Peace
Pastor Ken**

<p>Annual Budget for 2016 (Operating Funds) \$108,223 Total Received for Operating Funds as of January 31, 2016: \$10,014.46 Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: \$9,018.58</p>
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COFFEE HOUR FOR FEBRUARY

March 6 – Val Bradley
March 13– Janis Slaughter
March 20 – Diane Faulkner
March 27 – Betty Ann Tabler

A very special thank you to all the ladies who help with this ministry.
If you would like to be a part of this church ministry, contact
Polly Van Benschoten, 776-0569

SPRING FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

By Fran Miller
Food Pantry Committee

On behalf of the Food Pantry Committee, I want to thank you for your generous contributions during the February food drive. Your work is not over, however! As I told you in last month's newsletter, we will be collecting food during the month of March as well. Our hope is to have enough to feed at least the number of families we had helped in October. We would need at least 100 bags of groceries to do this. So at the bottom of this article is the list of items we would like for the weeks in March. Of course, if you prefer to give a monetary donation that is always welcome!



Besides donations of food, the food committee needs your help on the day we open our doors to distribute this food. It will be on Saturday, April 16, from 9-11 a.m. We need people to greet, serve refreshments, and help carry bags to cars. There will be a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary. Please volunteer! Also, if you know a family who needs help, please tell them to come on the 16th. Thank you again for your help and support.

March 6 - soups, peanut butter, canned fruit, pork & beans
March 13 – Ready Meals, dried beans, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce
March 20 - peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meats, pork & beans
March 27 - spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, Ready Meals, dried beans



If you have spring blossoms in your yard,
remember to bring some for the Living Cross
on Easter Sunday.

UMM NEWS

By Warren Wright, UMM President



The UMM will be meeting on Monday, March 21, at 7 p.m. (note this is a change from our regular monthly meeting night). At this meeting we will begin planning for our next mission opportunities, planning for Kits for Conference, as well as our spring Bible study. 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.

Hymnology 101

March 2016

By Polly Van Benschoten

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”



“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak...” (Psalm 6:2)

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

This gospel song is a favorite of Virginia Clark, and we have had the pleasure of hearing her sing it on more than one occasion. The author is unknown, but it probably dates back to southern African-American churches of the 19th century, possibly prior to the Civil War. The first known recording was by the Selah Jubilee Singers in October, 1941. By the end of the 1970’s, more than a hundred artists had recorded the song.

Just a closer walk with Thee, (Refrain)
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

I am weak, but Thou art strong,
Jesus, keep me from all wrong,
I’ll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

When my feeble life is o’er,
Time for me will be no more,
Guide me gently, safely o’er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore.

*Dear Friends,
I would like to thank you again for the many kindnesses extended to me following my recent surgery. The prayers, phone calls, delicious food, and rides to wherever I have needed to go are greatly appreciated. I am so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.
Yours in Christ,
Virginia*

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

By Warren Wright

Saint Patrick, the Shamrock, the Trinity



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 17 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 March 17, 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.'"



*People seldom get dizzy
doing good turns.*

REFLECTIONS ON EASTER AND THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT

By Fred Dent

A famous author named Robert Fulghum (*All I know I learned in kindergarten, What on earth have I done?*) asked a friend of his in a small village on the island of Crete why they celebrated Easter with so much more enthusiasm than the Christmas season.

He answered, "December 25th was just a birthday. Everybody has birthdays, and besides, Jesus never asked us to remember His birthday."

But He did ask us to remember what happened in this special season. Easter celebrates a resurrection from the dead. That's amazing. That's spectacular. That's Big. This season is the birthday of the Christian Church—one of the biggest tenants of our religion.

But as a child, next to Christmas, the favorite holiday was Easter the season of coloring eggs with the family, homemade cookies, pictures with the 7 ft. tall Easter Bunny at the Mall, especially since he always gave us candy. Then there was running around the yard looking for those hidden multicolored eggs, and hoping to be the one who finds the special egg that always was rewarded with a prize.

Then came the Easter feast with the whole family. Glazed ham, turkey, mashed potatoes with homemade gravy, rice, green beans, yams with cinnamon and corn on the cob. Does that sound right to you? That's the way I remember it. Of course I've been known to flavor certain things a certain way to make it more exciting.

After that, the desserts come. Pies, pies, and more pies. Looked like every one baked a special pie to show it off. Well, that was mighty fine with me.

Over the years little has changed in the way we celebrate Easter in America. Egg hunts, baskets of surprises, and Sunday feasts after celebrating this—the death and rising from the dead by our Lord and savior Jesus Christ at our local church.

BUT

There is so much more to Christians worldwide. The holiday celebrates the faith foundational event and doctrinal cornerstone of the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth three days after his crucifixion.

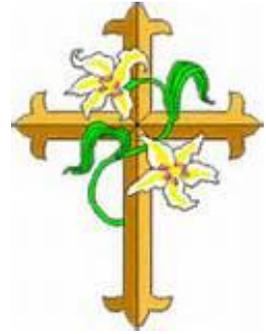
The importance of this miracle cannot be understated. The importance cannot be overstated.

In his first letter to the Christians of Corinth, the 15th chapter and the 17th verse, Saint Paul said, "**If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.**" NIV

It's easy to see why man celebrates this day.

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- **Christ's authority over death is confirmed.**
- **His identity is proved in the eyes of witnesses.**
- **Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah are confirmed.**
- **He made it possible for all men to have salvation as long as, by faith, they accept His death on the cross as a sacrifice for their sins.**

Do you know the entire Easter story? You probably learned it from your Sunday



school teacher and your parents.

An author named Wayne Rice tells a story about that very thing, telling the story. On Easter Sunday Little Johnny listened as his Sunday school teacher told the class that today's lesson will be about the meaning of Easter. "Can anyone tell me the Easter story?" the teacher asked. Well, no hands went up because all kids that age knew better than to volunteer for anything. I just hope it sticks till they get through the service. But that's another story. Then, she calls on Frank. "Umm, I don't think I know." Then she called on a little girl named Betty. "I don't know how to tell it."

Finally Johnny decided to raise his hand. He said he would tell the Easter story. The teacher was pleasantly surprised because he was usually the class clown.

"On Easter," said Johnny, "Jesus and his Disciples were eating the Jewish Passover at the last supper, but later Jesus was deceived and turned over to the Romans by one of his own disciples. He was accused of teaching that He was the Messiah; and when He confessed it, the Romans made Him wear a crown of thorns, took Him to be crucified, and hung Him on a cross with nails through His Hands and feet. He said 'It is finished' which means 'Debt paid in full' and died. He was definitely dead because the water was separated from His blood when they stabbed His side. So they buried Him in a nearby cave on Friday which was sealed off by a big boulder."

"Very good Johnny," the teacher said. "And what else happened that we celebrate on Easter?"

The next part is not meant to be something that is funny, but shows how important it is to keep correct what is in the Bible in the minds of children and adults alike.

Johnny thought for a moment before continuing. "Now, on Easter Sunday each year, we move the boulder aside so that Jesus can come out. And if He sees His shadow, then we will know there will be six more weeks of winter."

How would you tell the story? According to Scripture, the Resurrection of Christ is the centerpiece of our faith.

Saint Paul clearly teaches that without the Risen Christ we have no Gospel, or Good News, at all. Unless you believe in the Risen Christ, our religion is pointless. But because He was raised from the dead, we will also be raised to eternal life. Now that's good news. 1 Cor. 15:13-14 NIV

To prepare themselves spiritually for Easter, Christians observe Lent—a time for fasting, charity, and reflection. This is why in many parts of the world the day before Ash Wednesday (when the Lenten fast begins), is devoted to feasting.

May the season always remain in our hearts.



Our Vision:

To be a spirit-filled and nurturing church family that reaches out and embraces the entire community.

The Grapevine

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Methodism Study	2 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study	3 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	4 Deadline for Easter Egg Orders	5 Mobile Food Pantry 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
6 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	7* Linda Dobbins 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	8 7 p.m. EY Circle 7 p.m. Methodism Study	9 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study	10 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	11	12* Alison Crittenden Chuck Banker 8 a.m. EY Circle Easter Egg Production 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
13 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Daylight Savings Time Begins	14* Peggy Vaudt	15 7 p.m. Finance and Church Council 7 p.m. Methodism Study	16* Ronnie Teagle 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study	17* Annette Johnston 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	18	19 7:30 a.m. EY Circle Easter Egg Production 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
20* Corey Buchanan 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Palm Sunday	21 11 a.m. Soup Ministry 7 p.m. UMM	22 7 p.m. Methodism Study	23 12 Noon Lenten Lunch 7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study	24* Don Van Benschoten 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at Clarksbury	25 7 p.m. Community Good Friday Service at Philippi	26* Mark White 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
27 7a.m. Sunrise Service at Zoar 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Easter Sunday	28* April Mauney	29* Linda Davis 7 p.m. Methodism Study	30	31		

The deadline for the April 2016 Grapevine will be Thursday, March 24. Send items to vanben@va.metrocast.net; place them in the office mailbox; or call 804-776-0569.

*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.)

Counters for March are Diane Faulkner and Warren Wright.

Tommy and Jenny Crittenden will serve as ushers.

The reader is Warren Wright.