



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia April 2017
www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

John 20:1-2, 11-18 (NRSV)

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ...

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

As we close out Lent and are focused on the joy of Easter morning we often miss the sorrow and sense of loss felt by those closest to Jesus including Peter, James, John and the Disciples, Mary and Martha and Mary his mother as well as Mary Magdalene and others. From the horrors of Good Friday to the last words of Jesus before he gave up His life, what were their thoughts, their fears, their anxieties, their understanding and their FAITH???

What were their understandings of Jesus' promises and sayings before the Crucifixion and the reality of that dead body laid in the tomb, sealed with a stone and guarded by Roman soldiers? What would you be thinking as you go to the tomb to finish the burial preparations that had been rushed on that night just so few hours before?

Would you react just as Mary Magdalene did? What would you be thinking as you race back to the disciples to tell them what you have seen? What are you expecting the disciples to do? Imagine your anxiety as you announce what you have just seen.

The Passion story is filled with roller coaster emotional lows and highs. Here in the first verses, Mary is at a low ebb... would you be there with her racing to tell the disciples...weeping in uncertainty? Then just a few verses later she ascends to the excitement of seeing the "Teacher". By the last few verses she realizes that all is not as it had seemed just minutes before. She has answers to her questions and her fears and anxieties have been reduced.... He has told her what to do.

But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God ...

We can only imagine the joy with which Mary went to tell the disciples what He had told her.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

We know what Jesus commands us to do as well....

Mark 16:15 (NRSV)

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

We all know that we should be applying all our gifts and talents to that task.

It is essential for us to realize that we have a RIGHT relationship with God that has been restored, even though our sin would make it impossible to restore, because of the perfect gift of God's grace and mercy through Jesus Christ. Meditate on that over LENT.

Lenten luncheons continue with only two remaining.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Servers/Providers</u>
April 5	Rev Eric Vaudt	UMM
April 12	Rev John Choi	UMM

Again, the meal starts at 12 noon and cost is \$6. A service of song, hymns, readings or meditations follows around 12:30 until 1 p.m. Funds raised are given to mission ministries of Clarksbury including, but not limited to, the Society of Saint Andrew.

We continue our Bible study for the Lenten season. Adam Hamilton's "*24 Hours that Changed the World*" is our text. Sessions continue on each Wednesday evening concluding on April 19 with the final session.

The Ladies are working on Easter eggs...Yummy ! The UMM will be busy as well. There will also be opportunities for all to serve with our Mobile Food Bank efforts with the Cryer Center on April 1 from 9 -11 a.m. Clarksbury is the scheduled church providing the majority of the workers...but there is always plenty for all to do. If you can spare the time come out and lend a hand.

During Lent, many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penance. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God. The Stations of the Cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the Cross and of his execution, are often observed. Many Roman Catholic and some Protestant churches remove flowers from their altars, while crucifixes, religious statues, and other elaborate religious symbols are often veiled in violet fabrics in solemn observance of the event.

Consider what you will do for LENT; what will you sacrifice or give up? Will you endeavor to DO something positive and uplifting for others as imitators of Christ's sacrifice for humanity 2,000 plus years ago?

There are Society of St. Andrew Daily Lenten devotionals in the narthex and the social hall; consider picking one up and following a Lenten routine of daily meditation and scripture reading.

From The Virginia Conference and Bishop Lewis:

*"Join the Prayer Community for the United Methodist Church in the world!
On April 2-8, the Virginia Conference will participate in a week of intentional prayer for the mission of The United Methodist Church and for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward which began meeting in January. This week of Praying Our Way Forward is an initiative of the Council of Bishops as a part of their larger commitment to lead the church in every part of the world in times of worship, study, discernment, confession and prayer for God's guidance. For this Conference wide event, we are called to a posture of prayer, praying for God's leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission of the church. We invite you – clergy and laity, conferences and congregations – across the denomination to pray for God's guidance. We know that in prayer, we can be one in Christ. "*

In support of this effort Pastors across the Virginia Annual Conference will focus on prayer during their "Pastoral Prayer" in the April 2 Sunday worship services, and throughout the week to pray specifically for "Praying Our Way Forward".

Clarksbury UMC will encourage members to sign up to pray on specific dates and times (hourly or half-hourly as applicable) using a sign up list for daily prayers throughout the week of April 2 - 8 and using the Upper Room daily prayer guide at <http://umcprays.org/> or daily prayers provided by Bishop Lewis via http://2017VaNews/Pray_Forward website and/or other appropriate prayers for discerning God's Will, and looking to be faithful stewards to His Church.

Clarksbury UMC will have a sign up list for dates and times from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily through the period either at home or in the sanctuary at Clarksbury, which will be open from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. daily or at other hours as circumstances dictate.

Call me at (276) 224-4935 or (804) 776-6060 or contact Warren Wright to sign up for a date and time for prayer.

Lower UMC and Clarksbury will hold a combined worship service focused upon the weeklong event at Lower on Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m.; please make plans now to attend.

Clarksbury has always been a praying congregation... no doubt of that. As our United Methodist denomination addresses a way forward in the times we face... let "God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

My prayer will be that we continue to pray and meditate on His WORD daily NOT JUST DURING LENT and that we serve our community selflessly, and celebrate those lost sheep who have lost their way (like you and I have at different times) when they are found and returned to the fold.

I believe it is our FAITH in Jesus that we put into ACTIONS for and with the YOUTH and YOUNG of our community that truly lives into the above commands from our Lord.

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 2017 Operating Funds) \$112,185.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of March 31, 2017: \$26,360.28
Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: \$28,046.25

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Why we need April Showers in our lives

By Warren Wright



We need the Shower of the Holy Spirit in our lives like never before. During a good rain, vegetation is nourished -- animals are nourished -- the grass gets greener; rain refreshes the land.

Rain causes things to grow and be fruitful. We as well need to be spiritually nourished and refreshed through the word of God and through the Holy Spirit. We all know people who are in a drought!

There comes a time in every person's life when they experience a drought of some kind. It may be the drought of health-when it seems like there is no end in sight to your physical problems. It may be the drought of finances-when it seems like the bills are coming in faster than the money to pay them. It may be the drought of your occupation-because you have lost the enjoyment of doing what you do for a living.

But of all the droughts I can think of, the worst is a Spiritual Drought.

Deuteronomy 11:14-17-¹⁴ that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. ¹⁵He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. ¹⁶Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. ¹⁷Or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

Today my prayer is, "Lord, we need rain!"



Worship Committee

By David Dobson Chairperson

If you have been in service on Sundays recently, you are being given just a small taste of a spectacular treat some of us enjoyed several weeks ago. Our Clarksbury choir joined voice with other area choirs and gave a heartfelt and moving performance of Tenebrae/ A Service of Darkness by Hal H. Hobson. To put it mildly, it was stunning!

An exemplary string and oboe section accompanied angelic voices in singing a passionate score with those in attendance. The composition details the events of the Crucifixion of Jesus our Lord, as the leaders conspired against Him, the plot of Judas, Jesus reciting the words of institution, and the night in Gethsemane where Jesus asked "Could you not watch?" The performance continued telling the fateful story through the betrayal, the trial, Peters denials, Jesus and Pontius Pilate, the mocking of the King of the Jews, and ultimately, the crucifixion of Christ.

None who attended were left untouched as the night ended as solemnly as it began, with these final words:

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, yes even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night, and forevermore. Amen.

Food Pantry

By Fran Miller, Chairperson



As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Food Pantry Committee would like to have another food distribution day. The date will be June 24. So how can you help? Although we have some food on our shelves, there is still a lot we need to fill our bags. We will be asking you to provide specific items that we are in desperate need of. Each Sunday we will be asking you to bring these items to church for our pantry. If you can't donate food, money is also welcome! Here are the dates for April and the items we would like. In May's newsletter, we will give you another list for that month. Keep the list by your refrigerator or calendar so you won't forget! Thanks in advance for your help.

Yours in Christ,
The Food Pantry Committee

April 9- canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc)

April 16 - canned vegetables, pork & beans, Ready Meals, soups, canned meat

April 23 - canned vegetables, canned fruit, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc)

April 30 - canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, dried beans, soups, pork & beans

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.

Clarksbury's Musicians By Becky Wilhite



Clarksbury's musicians will present a musical for Holy Week titled "My Savior's Love" by Mary McDonald and Rose M. Aspinall. This musical breathes musical breath into the incredible story of the significance of a final meal with the disciples, painful thorns and subsequent crucifixion, and the promise of eternal life for those who accept and believe these difficult truths. The music expresses the dreadful occurrences of Holy Week, but also shares the hope and love of our Savior to all who seek him. Please plan to come and share with us on Sunday, April 9 during the morning worship service.

UMM NEWS

By Warren Wright, UMM President



Our regular monthly business meeting will be held on Monday April 24th at 7 PM. At this meeting we will be making our final plans for: Kits for Conference, Mother's Day Breakfast on May 13th, and our Barbeque dinner on June 9th. 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 Special and Heartfelt Thank You!

By Petra and David Dobson



To all of our Clarksbury Family who supported the youth of the county during the Spaghetti Supper, Thank You! We are especially touched that any time we put out the call, Clarksbury comes through in a big way to show the girls what an awesome support system they have. Petra and I are forever grateful to the love you show our girls. You will not be disappointed because we know the girls are on a mission to do big things one day. Again, sincerely we thank you all. D&P

How often should you forgive the other person?
Only as many times as you want GOD to forgive you!

COFFEE HOUR FOR April

April	2	Polly Van Benschoten
April	9	Jerry Dant
April	16	Gayle Gilliland
April	23	Cacky Guill
April	30	Terry Cleveland



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

Hymnology 101

April 2017

"How Beautiful"

By Polly Van Benschoten



How beautiful the hands that served
the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked
the long dusty roads and the hills to the cross.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled
that took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes
that chose to forgive and never despise.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as He laid down His life
we offer this sacrifice that we will live just as he died
willing to pay the price,
willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the radiant Bride
who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give
the fruit of pure lives so that others may live.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the feet that bring
the sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve
the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ

These are the lyrics to the beautiful song that Helen White and April Sizemore sang on March 19 during our worship service. They were written by Twila Paris (born December 1958) who is a contemporary Christian music singer/songwriter, author and pianist. Since 1980 she has released 22 albums and 33 number one Christian radio singles. She was named the Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year three years in a row and was inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame in May 2015. Many of her earlier songs are found in church hymnals. In fact four of them are in our *The Faith We Sing*. They include "He is Exalted", "We Will Glorify the King of Kings", "Lamb of God" and "Honor and Praise".

NURTURE AND CARE COMMITTEE

By Jerry Dant, Chairperson



What a great month we have had with our home bound members. Several have been to the Lenten Luncheons and one lady wrote an article for the Newsletter last month and has even been seen in church several times in March.

We have included a list of home bound members, addresses and birthdays and ask that everyone take part in the committee's project as it would put a lot of smiles on their faces.

Mail a letter of happiness to our homebound members!

If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed. **Birthdays are in bold type.** 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**
2939 Princess Ann Crest
Chesapeake, VA 27321

Ivey Huff **10/12**
33 Mae Lane
Wake, VA 2176

Fred & Jane Crittenden
11/15,8/22
P.O. 30
Hardyville, VA 23070

D-G

Sue Myers **09/30**
Westminster Canterbury
132 Lancaster Drive
Irvington, VA 22480

Reggie Jackson **7/12**
Riverside Convalescent Ctr.
P.O. Box 303
Saluda, VA 23149

H-L

Betty Morris **9/27**
221 Sturgeon Point Loop
Deltaville, VA 23043

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

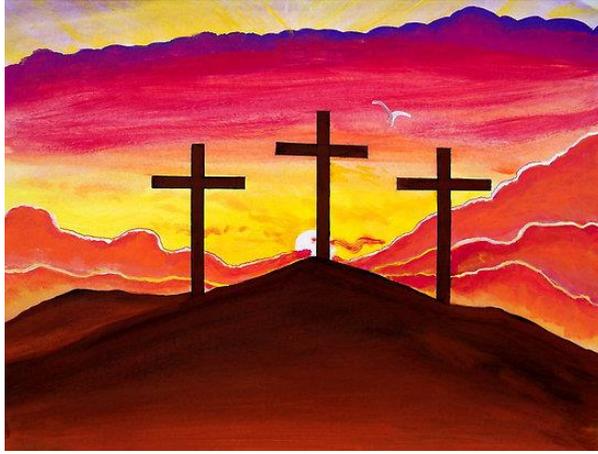
Pastor Jim Salmon **5/24**
26306 Mattaponi Trail
Milford, VA 2524

M-Z

Ruth Wilder **5/12**
Westminster Canterbury
132 Lancaster Dive
Irvington, VA 22480

Jean Cree
Georgia Manor #62
651 Riverwalk Place
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Me Bell Fitzgerald **7/11**
Riverside Convalescent Ctr.
P.O. Box 370
Mathews, VA 23109



Ever try to make a fruit salad without fruit? Or chocolate chip cookies without chocolate chips? That would be silly, right? Even the most basic recipes have ingredients crucial to their success. Prayer, too, has certain “ingredients” that help ensure its effectiveness and success.

1. Love is a crucial ingredient of powerful prayer.

Love is the defining characteristic of God—and those who follow him. “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:8). In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus emphasized the importance of a loving, forgiving spirit (Matthew 6:14-15).

2. Belief and positive expectation are essential.

Research has shown that patients with faith and hope heal more quickly and completely. Through prayer, God wants us to be “sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). Always pray hopefully, confident that the Lord will bring about the best possible results.

3. The language of prayer must be simple and sincere.

Jesus warns against empty and wordy prayers. “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words” (Matthew 6:7). Bring your requests to your loving Father whenever they come to mind, but do not feel “many words” will make him hear you better. Just speak to God sincerely and confidently.

4. It is vital to pray, “Your will be done.”

1 John 5:14 assures us, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” You will pray with more and more confidence and power as you live close to the Lord, seek his will, and follow his guidance.

5. Pray with others.

If you have the opportunity, take part in a prayer circle or join your church’s “prayer chain.” Agree with a few close friends to pray for each other’s children, health, relationships. And don’t forget that you can pray with other Christians anytime at ourprayer.org! Jesus promises “where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

Taken from Guideposts

Our Vision:

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



The Grapevine

April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
2 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	3 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	4 Al Miller Elizabeth Sibley 7 p.m. Trustees	5	6 Paulette Topping 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	7	8 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
9 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	10	11 7:00p.m. EY Circle	12	13 7p.m. Chancel Choir	14	15 Emily Farmer 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
16 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	17 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	18 Richard Sisson Finance & Church Council 7 p.m	19 Richard Purcell Mary Nell Ivey	20 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	21 Jerry Crittenden	22 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
23 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	24	25	26 Betty Johnson	27 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	28	29 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
30 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship						

The deadline for the May 2017 Grapevine will be Monday, April 24.

Send items to pwalian@yahoo.com.

April 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 April are Fran Miller and Gayle Gilliland
Anne Thompkins and Diane Faulkner will serve as **ushers**.
The **reader** is Gayle Gilliland