



The Grapevine

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

May 2017

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

John 14:6-14 (NRSV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

We have zoomed through Lent with awesome Lenten luncheons and worship services; Holy Week and Easter were inspiring. I am pleased to stop and catch my breath and get ready for May and Mother's Day which are rapidly approaching.

A well-deserved "Thank You" is due to all who cooked, served, assisted, sang, participated and prayed for all of the ministries here at Clarksbury UMC. I'm certain that the UMW and UMM will report on how well all of our ministries are supported through your efforts.

It was such a pleasure working with all the ministers who spoke at our Lenten lunches. In addition to **Rev. June Haislip** and **Dr. John Snow**, we thank **Rev. Hyung Moon**, **Rev. Jeongin Kim**, **Rev. Illeana Rosario**, **Rev. Grant Ambrose** (even though a funeral precluded his participation), **Rev. Eric Vaudt** and **Rev. John Choi** for their messages, their witness, their songs and music, and their presence. **Thank You... Thank You, All!**

I also want to thank all of those who came out for our Lenten Bible Study, Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours that Changed the World*. It was truly wonderful to go down that 24-hour period of time and see more clearly what price God, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit paid for our salvation.

Thanks also to those who joined us at Lower UMC for our combined prayer time "Praying the Way Forward". What a great, moving prayer-filled time we had. There is talk that we might want to combine for prayers more frequently and rotate the location. There will be more on that later as our worship teams get our hearts together.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

When the author of the Gospel of John recounts for us this exchange between Jesus and his disciples, we should recognize that Jesus is responding to many of the disciples' questions, not just Thomas'. Jesus' responses are in the context of questions posed by:

- **Peter** (John 13:36-37) "Lord, where are you going?" and "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!"
- **Thomas** (John 14:5-7) "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"
- **Philip** (John 14:8) "Lord, show us the Father, and it's enough for us."

When we know the context of Jesus' answers to their questions it seems to make more sense than Jesus just announcing "I am the way, the truth and the life."

"No one comes to the Father except through me."

Also, just as in John 3:16 and 3:17 so, too, is it very important to finish the thought of John 14:6. ⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* That Jesus is the Way, Truth and the Life is powerful. Yet, to let it stand alone without finishing the thought misses the guidance and purpose.

Jesus came to show us the way, to show us how to live and to live in truth striving on towards the goal, as Paul tells us in Philippians 3:12...that of being in the presence of our Creator when all is said and done. ¹² *Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

Lent and Easter are behind us and spring and summer are ahead of us. We have many ministries that God is calling us to serve in and pray for and lift up. Our prayer list seems to fill up with so many requests. Yet, we see our prayers and petitions go up and God's blessings come down. Let us continue in that way.

Philip asked, "Lord, show us the Father, and it's enough for us." We can and should do all in our abilities and talents to emulate all the servant attitudes, activities and attributes that Jesus demonstrated and displayed. We should be exercising our God-given blessings as servants all the time...not just during holy periods such as Lent or Advent.

Our Mobile Food Pantry is coming up on May 6 and we can always use help. Our Soup Ministry can always use help as well. Call Kathy, Lucy, Diane or Helen and volunteer your services. While in the USN, NAVY was an acronym that meant Never, Again, Volunteer, Yourself. Well, this is NOT the Navy...so feel free to volunteer. ☺

Clarksbury has always been a praying congregation... no doubt of that. Again, our prayers and praises go up and His blessings come down, all the time!

My prayer will be that WE continue to pray and meditate on His WORD daily. We can serve our community selflessly; and we can celebrate when those sheep who have lost their way, like you and I have at different times, are found and returned to the fold.

We, together, have pledged OUR prayers, OUR presence, OUR gifts, OUR service and OUR witness for Christ and His Church.

Peace & Grace
Pastor Ken



COFFEE HOUR FOR May

May	7	Linda Dobbins
May	14	Becky Foster
May	21	Betty Tate
May	28	Kathy Wright



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

Annual Budget for 2017 Operating Funds) \$112,185.00

Total Received for Operating Funds as of April 30, 2017: **\$38,116.28**

Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: **\$37,395.00**

A Message from Your Lay Leader

Do you give God the first fruits of your day?

By Warren Wright



A few years ago in our Bible Study “Christianity’s Family Tree” by Adam Hamilton, we studied what other Christian religions believed and why. One of the common themes that we read about throughout all of these religions was the “Power of Prayer”. So this month I want to focus on what prayer should mean to us, and particularly **Morning Prayer**.

The morning is an excellent time for devotions. If you schedule to do it during your day or in the evening, what happens when your day or evening become so hectic that your devotion time gets pushed out of the line up?

By having communion with God the Father in the morning, we are saying, “God, you are most important in my priorities and I will give you the first fruit of my day.” If we allow time for God first thing in the morning, He will bring together the rest of your day. You will be full spiritually and will not be hungry for this world. If you wait until later to have devotions with your Father, it most likely gets pushed out of the line up and never gets done, sometimes going days without talking with God or reading His Word. You will fill yourself up with the world and be too stuffed to eat spiritually when you get home.

Jesus followed the Word of God in giving the Father first place in His thoughts, prayers and activities. David writes, “Let me hear your loving kindness in the morning for I trust in You. Make me to know the way in which I should walk for to You I lift my soul” (Psalm 143:8-11). By having our devotion time in the morning, we can ask God to lead us in the direction in which we should go for the day. Ask for God’s provision, guidance, and protection. I would recommend that you spend at least **15 minutes in devotion with God every morning**, if not more.

Mark 1:35-In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

UMM NEWS
By Warren Wright, UMM President



Our regular monthly business meeting will be held on Monday May 22nd at 7 PM. At this meeting we will be making our final plans for: Kits for Conference 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.

Worship Committee

By David Dobson Chairperson



The worship committee held a quarterly meeting in April. A review of Holy Week services was very positive and the Tenebrae was to say the least, extremely moving. It was incredible. A **HUGE** thanks to Becky Wilhite and the Choir for pulling "double duty" to get ready.

Upcoming events to be aware of include a very special Mother's Day service on May 14, an Ice Cream Social on July 2, Vacation Bible School at Zoar Baptist church this summer. As we see more children attend, thoughts of a special Sunday school are on the table. We are excited for the future.

Please let us know what you want **YOUR** Church to be!
Dave (ddobson67@gmail.com)

Food Pantry

By Fran Miller, Chairperson



The Food Pantry Committee wants to thank you for your generous contributions during the April food drive. Your work is not over, however! As we told you in last month's newsletter, we will be collecting food during the months of May and June as well. Our hope is to have enough food to feed at least 60 families on our Food Pantry Day, June 24th. So, at the bottom of this article is the list of items we would like for the weeks in May. In June's newsletter, we will give you another list for our final month. Of course, if you prefer to give a monetary donation that is always welcome!

Yours in Christ,

The Food Pantry Committee

May 7 - canned vegetables, Ready Meals, canned meat, canned fruit

May 14 - soups, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc), canned fruit, pork & beans

May 21 - Ready Meals, dried beans, canned meat, spaghetti sauce

May 28 - canned fruit, canned meats, pork & beans, Ready Meals

*Love is another word for Mother.
Happy Mother's Day.*

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.

Scholarship Applications

By Fran Miller



If you are a high school senior or college student, applications are being accepted for our scholarship. Your latest transcript must be included. The deadline is June 10. Applications are available on our website.

EASTER EGG PROJECT BENEFITS LOCAL MISSIONS

By Helen White

The Edna Yankovich Circle recently completed its annual Easter egg project. We mixed, weighed, shaped, dipped, decorated, and boxed 53 large eggs and 2,673 small eggs. When we began this project in 2001, we decided that the profits would go to support local missions. This year we made a profit of \$3,200. We are able to send contributions to the following agencies:

Northern Neck Free Health Clinic
Laurel Shelter
Christmas Friends
YMCA Guardian Program
Hands Across Middlesex
Habitat for Humanity
Backpack Buddies
Family Services
Stop Hunger Now
Heart Havens
Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic

We are also contributing to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which assists needy people in our county and in surrounding counties.

The members of the EY Circle express their thanks to all who helped with our Easter egg project in any way.

HYMNOLOGY 101

May 2017

“Morning Has Broken” Page 145

By Polly Van Benschoten



Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the morning! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Our choir used this lovely hymn as the introit for our worship service on April 23. This was a nice surprise for me as I had decided earlier to use it for the May hymnology article.

“**Morning Has Broken**” was written by Eleanor Farjeon (1818-1965). She was born in London, the daughter of a popular novelist who encouraged her to write from the age of five. She had around 80 works to her credit including *Nursery Rhymes of London Town* and *The Glass Slipper*. During her lifetime she won many prestigious literary awards. An annual prize is presented in her name to this day by the Children's Book Circle a charity that supports the British children's book industry.

She was asked in 1931 to write a poem to fit an old Scottish tune called “Bunessan.” It was originally published in the second edition of *Songs of Praise* which was widely used in schools in the UK. It first appeared in the USA in the *Presbyterian Hymnbook* (1955). Her poem became famous when it was included in Cat Stevens' 1971 album *Teaser & the Firecat*. As a result it has been included in most hymnals since that time. This is an example of a Christian hymn receiving acclaim through the popular media.

Eleanor Farjeon also wrote the words to “**People, Look East**” which appears on page 202 in our hymnal.

NURTURE AND CARE COMMITTEE

By Jerry Dant, Chairperson



The Nurture Committee would like to thank the members for remembering our home bound members with cards and visits. It is a good feeling to walk in church and have a lady, who lives in Assisted Living, thank you for the card and say "It really made me smile". Let's keep on sending cards to the person listed by the "*initial of your last name*" on the list found in our March Newsletter. Don't forget Mother's Day. We will have something special for our homebound mothers from our church for that special day. God Bless each and every one of our home bound members and you will see and hear from us during the month of May.

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
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D-G

Sue Myers 09/30 Westminster Canterbury 132 Lancaster Drive Irvington, VA 22480	Reggie Jackson 7/12 Riverside Convalescent Ctr. P.O. Box 303 Saluda, VA 23149
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H-L

Betty Morris 9/27 221 Sturgeon Point Loop Deltaville, VA 23043	Myrtle Clark 10/2 P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 2524
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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
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A Ministry of the Great Commission Matthew 28:18-20

by Fred Dant

The Goal: To glorify God by taking His Word and His love to those unable to hear His Word in a church environment.

And the King will answer them, "Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)

Can you just imagine what your life would be like if you were in a Nursing Home right now? Maybe you are there just because of physical injuries and are there for therapy, or, because of your age you need constant care doing the things you have done by yourself all your life without anyone's help, your dignity is wounded when you have to be bathed, dressed, and even fed by someone, that is a perfect stranger to you.

And the loneliness! What about when nobody comes to visit you? Where is everybody? You have no idea how many families just seem to be forgotten. No family, friends, and most of the time no visits from their Pastor's or other church members.

What do you think you will miss most? Attention, conversation, maybe just a smiling face no matter who it is? Everywhere I go the residents seem to like singing the most, and I do a lot of that with them myself. Even though I can't sing worth a toot, they still want it. They all love their music.

And let's not forget our Christian faith, and our Christian duty. Maybe someone will read to you from the Bible, or anything. And we know that people want to be listened to.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this; "to look after orphans and widows in their distress," and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. A Nursing Home is a perfect way to honor God's will toward "the least of these", that Jesus mentions, and can impact so many, and, it is one of the least expensive ministries to maintain. And, it is actually so much fun.

We all know there are people in our community that are starving for attention, and the Word. In James 4:17, he said that, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Many residents don't get any visitors at all, not family, not church members, no one. To just visit these people is a Godsend for them, and for you, and it will definitely light up their lives, and yours. You can't believe their moods after they get a visit from you.

So, now we are ready to take the first step and start visiting. Remember, your goal is to establish a caring relationship and to win them over to Christ, to disciple and encourage the resident.

What is the greatest need for people in confinement that have lost freedom to public worship and fellowship? "Always remember you are there as an Ambassador of Christ, since God is making His appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled with God."

Our Vision:

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



The Grapevine

May 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	2 7 p.m. Trustees	3 Melanie Glenn	4	5	6 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
7 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	8 Paul Bisogno	9 7:00p.m. EY Circle	10	11 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	12 Ruth Wilder	13 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
14 Jamie Mears 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	15 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	16 Charles Decker Finance & Church Council 7 p.m	17 Christopher Glenn	18 7p.m. Chancel Choir	19	20 Morgan Duke Kimberly South 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
21 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	22 Betty Chenowith	23	24 Jim Salmon	25 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	26	27 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
28 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

The deadline for the June 2017 Grapevine will be Wednesday, May 24.

Send items to pwalian@yahoo.com.

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.)

Scripture reader for May is Becky Foster

Counters for May are Val Bradley and Becky oster

Carl and Betty Tate will serve as **ushers**.

The **reader** is Gayle Gilliland