



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia

January 2016

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSV)

¹ *This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for
you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few
words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of
Christ.*

⁵ *In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been
revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become
fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through
the gospel.*

⁷ *Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me
by the working of his power.*

⁸ *Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the
Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the
plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the
church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and
authorities in the heavenly places.*

¹¹ *This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our
Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.*

Happy New Year!!! Here we are finished with another year and fast we fly into another
one...or so it seems....☺

What resolutions have YOU made? Weight loss; more time with family; another college
course; more industrious projects in the yard this year; attacking that mountain of boxes that you
absolutely "MUST" get to this year?

Have you thought about how precious you are to God? The above scripture tells us...
*"as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the
Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in*

Christ Jesus through the gospel. "...you and I are HEIRS.... WE are members of this promise, this COVENANT that God made with Abraham so long ago...Hallelujah! We are children of God's Promise...set in motion by God...through Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit!!

We are that Church spoken of here...***"through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."*** ...through and with which everyone will be made to see the plan...God's plan... ***the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things...***revealed in Jesus the Christ.

Advent is past...or is it? Advent is a time in which we look expectantly FOR...the Latin word *adventis* "Coming" or the Greek word *Parousia* "Glorious Coming." How do you look for Christ to come back? Is it just a repetitive celebration of Advent then Christmas? Or...are YOU looking expectantly for that trumpet sound...(1 Thessalonians 4)...the clouds parting and Jesus descending...to call us all to Him and the NEW HOME He has for all of us???

I urge you to consider this as a New Year's Resolution...to become more attuned to God and Jesus through PRAYER, through MEDITATION, through DEVOTIONAL reading, and through other spiritual disciplines as outlined in the Prayer Covenant Congregation and 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.).

Congregations are invited to become "Prayer Covenant Congregations" by:

- 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.**

JESUS is the REASON for the SEASON!!!

I'll say that again. JESUS is the REASON for the SEASON!!!

Even though Christmas has passed for another year...let us remember that Jesus is with us always...and act like we believe that. Just as last month I urged each of you to consider the following for this NEW YEAR...I urge you today to consider it again for this month.

This is not a "to do list"...but rather items and activities to consider.

- Consider a fast for any period of time to prepare your spirit and body to focus on the Christ and not your immediate hungers and desires.
- Consider enlarging your devotional life. The Upper Room and Daily Bread are excellent ones. Consider others as well...a Google search will return hundreds of seasonal devotionals.
- Consider inventorying your blessings, name them...family, friends, health, you get the idea.

- Consider visiting our shut-ins, or pray for them, or send them a card.... Do something for them.
- Think about and pray about ways or thoughts and activities that you can entertain doing that further.

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...YOU are all part of God's Work HERE!!!

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

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will COME AGAIN !!!

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**

**Annual Budget for 2015 (Operating Funds): \$111,280.
Total Received for Operating Funds as of November 30, 2015: \$94,846.86
Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: \$102,006.67**

COFFEE HOUR FOR JANUARY

January 3 – Anne Tompkins
January 10 – Dolores Decker
January 17 – Mary Banker
January 24 – Suzanne Ramsburg
January 31 – Terry Cleveland

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

Thank you for your generous 'gift of love' presented to us at the covered dish on Dec. 20.

That tangible expression is, golly,...above-&-beyond generous. The gift, however, in no way compares to the expressions of love we feel from each of you with every encounter (well, almost every encounter 😊).

We feel so very, very blessed to have become a part of the Clarksbury UMC family. We love you, Sisters & Brothers, and look forward to serving our Lord together in even bigger-n-better ways in 2016!

Pastor Ken & Terry

Fred Dant shared this poem with us. He noted that it seems so appropriate when he thinks about forgiveness.

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
With its fabulous décor,

But by FOLKS in Heaven—
They made me start and gasp—
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.
There stood the kid from seventh grade
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor,
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I had thought for sure
Would rot away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I'd love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
Did God make a mistake?"

Why is everyone so silent
And staring—give me a clue."
"Hush, child," he said, "They're all in shock—
Surprised at seeing YOU"

--Author Unknown

UMM NEWS

By Warren Wright, UMM President



The UMM will be meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7 p.m. At this meeting we will begin planning for our next mission opportunities, three Lenten lunches, 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.

SOUP MINISTRY

By Kathy Wright, Chairperson
Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Helen White



The Soup Ministry Committee would like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT and THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have so generously given of their time and resources to provide homemade soup during 2015. Clarksbury UMC will continue its soup ministry in 2016 delivering homemade soup (with a sleeve of crackers) the first and third Monday of each month the entire year.

The soup ministry again provided homemade soup (with crackers) at the two Food Pantry distributions, April 11 and October 10. There are currently twenty recipients and twenty-one volunteers. The soup ministry will continue to work with Dave Cryer and the Cryer Center by distributing food the first Saturday of each month. The soup ministry committee also prepared and delivered turkey dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas to our soup ministry folks.

If you know of someone who could benefit from one or both of these ministries, OR if you would like to participate in one or both of these important ministries of our church, please contact one of the soup ministry committee members listed above or myself, Kathy Wright, 757-373-9166, or my email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless.

UMM BBQ Dinner **January 22, 2016**

The United Methodist Men of Clarksbury will be hosting an eat-in or take-out Carolina style chopped barbeque dinner on Friday, January 22, 2016 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The menu will include Carolina style chopped barbeque, baked beans, cole slaw, homemade rolls, homemade desserts, and beverage. The cost is \$10 per plate and tickets are available from the men of the church. All proceeds will be going to missions and church needs. Also the men will be taking orders for one pound containers of barbeque for \$6 beginning Sunday, January 3, with payment being made at the time of the order and delivery on the day of the dinner.

*If you are too busy to pray,
you are busier than
God wants you to be.*

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

By Warren Wright

A Simple New Year's Resolution

*H*ave you heard about the man who moved into a retirement community to spend the rest of his life there? It wasn't long until he had made a number of friends among the other residents. There was one lady he was especially attracted to and she was attracted to him, also. So they spent a lot of time together. Finally one evening he proposed, asking her to marry him. The next morning he woke up remembering his proposal, but he couldn't remember her answer. So he went to her and said, "I'm really embarrassed. I proposed to you last night but I can't remember if you said yes or no." "Oh, thank goodness," she replied, "I remembered saying yes, but I couldn't remember who asked me."

Sometimes I feel that way about New Year's resolutions. I tell myself, "This year I'm going to turn over a new leaf. I'm going to do all kinds of things to improve myself physically and spiritually." But then somehow I forget. Maybe you have that problem, too. So I have a suggestion for a New Year's resolution that we ought to be able to remember. It's kind of broad and very general, but here it is. Let's promise ourselves and God that we will make a change for the better. In 2016, as God's people, as His church, let's make this one simple resolution that we're going to make a change for the better. Here are three ways to make that change for the better. May God bless you in 2016.

1. **Develop a positive outlook toward life.**
2. **Develop a positive attitude toward your church.**
3. **Display a positive attitude toward others.**

Philippians 3:14 - "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

New Year's Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.

Please give the leaders of our world
A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth
A heart that's filled with love
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above.

~ Charlotte Anselmo ~

CLARKSBURY HYMNOLOGY 101

January 2016

"Here I Am, Lord"

By Polly Van Benschoten



Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"



"Here I Am, Lord" was written in 1981 by Daniel L. Schutte who was born in 1947 in Neenah, Wisconsin. He is an American composer of Catholic liturgical music and a contemporary Christian songwriter. He grew up in Elm Grove, Wisconsin and graduated from Marquette University High School before entering the Jesuits. He was one of the founding members of the St. Louis Jesuits who popularized a contemporary style of church music set to sacred texts sung in English as a result of the liturgical reforms initiated by Vatican II. His compositions are primarily written for liturgical use, particularly in Catholic worship but, over time, have found their way into Protestant worship. He continues to compose new music and is Composer-in-Residence at the University of San Francisco.

He has said that he was inspired to write this hymn by Chapter 6 of Isaiah and Chapter 3 of First Samuel.

"Here I Am, Lord" was immediately one of the most popular hymns in *The United Methodist Hymnal* when it was published in 1989. We should all be grateful for this gift from a Roman Catholic composer to the church universal, a gift that has become one of the hymns most often sung by our generation. This is one of Suzanne Ramsburg's favorites and it was also a favorite of Pastor Jim Tinney.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.

I have wept for love of them, they
turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?



Our Vision:

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

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January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
3 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	4 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	5* Lee White 7 p.m. Trustees	6	7 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	8	9* Cheryl Teagle 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
10 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. S/PPRC	11* Al Wild	12 7 p.m. EY Circle	13	14 6 p.m. Worship Committee 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	15* Lucy Blevins	16 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
17* Gene Ruark 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	18* Susan Valencia 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	19 7 p.m. Finance and Church Council	20	21	22* Terry Cleveland 4:30-6:30 p.m. UMM BBQ Dinner	23 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
24 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	25 7 p.m. UMM	26	27* Nevin Ramsburg	28	29* Abigail Foster * Amber Clark	30 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
31 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship						

The deadline for the February 2015 Grapevine will be Sunday, January 24. Send items to vanben@va.metrocast.net; place them in the office mailbox; or call 804-776-0569.

***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.)

Counters for January are Polly Van Benschoten and Cheryl Teagle.
Fred and Jerry Dant will serve as **ushers**.
The **reader** is Nevin Ramsburg.