



# *The Grapevine*

**Clarksbury United Methodist Church**

**15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia**

**February 2016**

[www.clarksburyumc.com](http://www.clarksburyumc.com)

**Our Mission:**

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

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## **Pastor Ken's Corner**

*Luke 9:28-36 (NRSV)*

*Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.*

*<sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.*

*<sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.*

*<sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.*

Here we go...off on our weather toboggan run...if there isn't a prediction for icy rain, it's snow and freezing temps. Anyone who was bemoaning the "too warm December" should be happy now. We have had some beautiful crisp skies, lovely moons, and some crisp, white snow covered days.

You all do know that I love winter, and snow...and I still enjoy the season, though with arthritis and older age...not so much as years ago.

This year Easter is early. Ash Wednesday is February 10 with Holy Week the week of March 21. Our Church is in the midst of plans for Lenten luncheons (each Wednesday), Lenten Bible studies for all ages (more later in this note), as well as a small group study aimed at covering topics that are essential for Methodists...for those who have recently joined our congregation from other denominations as well as anyone who wants a "Methodism refresher Course."

The Lenten study starts with the first of six sessions on **Wednesday**, February 17, at 7 p.m., continuing each **Wednesday evening** until March 23....and is open to all adults.

“The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they ‘may have life in his name.’ This Lent, adults can experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in **Adam Hamilton’s** six-week, DVD-series, ***John: The Gospel of Light and Life***. You’ll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.”

The books cost \$12.72 each. Please register that you plan on attending to reserve a book. Other books can be ordered; however, registering ensures you will have a book on time. The sign-up list will be on the table near the kitchen in the social hall.

Concerning the new members’ training...*The Essentials of Methodism* by **James Reuteler, Ph.D.** is, in my opinion, a great “primer” for understanding our Wesleyan roots and for getting a deeper understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our form of Methodist worship.

This training is primarily directed to our new members, though there will be lots of information that even more experienced Methodists will find enlightening. I am proposing four sessions on successive Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March through the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.

“*The Essentials of Methodism* is a small group study which focuses on the basic beliefs and ethics of what it means to be a Methodist or Wesleyan Disciple of Jesus Christ. This book contains ten lessons on Methodist Essentials.”

These books cost \$6.23 each. Please register that you plan on attending to reserve a book. The sign-up list will be on the table near the kitchen in the social hall.

By signing up or registering for the above classes, you will give us an idea of how many books to procure and how many people to prepare for.

So you can see, I am looking to an ambitious Lenten time for us to worship, to study and to have fellowship.

As with Peter and James and John (those whom we often call Jesus’ inner circle), if we follow Jesus and are attentive and truly seek to serve Him and spread the Gospel, we too can see what they saw...”*they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.*”

If we follow, study, and pray then we are doing what needs to be done to serve Jesus. If we are earnest in our service...then “<sup>35</sup>*from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"*” we are actually listening to what Jesus commands; that’s right, he **commands** us to do. This is not just a suggestion or some nice thought about activity and action. This is what Jesus commands us to do.... “Love one another as Jesus has loved us.”

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

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.**

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**

#### **COFFEE HOUR FOR FEBRUARY**

February 7 – Surprise  
February 14 – Jerry Dant  
February 21 – Betty Tate  
February 28 – Gayle Gilliland

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

#### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

February 3 – Fran and Alan Miller  
February 10 – Kathy and Warren Wright  
February 17 – Polly and Don Van Benschoten  
February 24 – Betty and Carl Tate

If you would like to be a part of this church ministry, contact Anne Tompkins, 776-9642

*"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength,  
while loving someone deeply gives you courage."*

*--Laozi*

## EDNA YANKOVICH CIRCLE TO MAKE EASTER EGGS

By Helen White

**I**t's that time again! The Edna Yankovich Circle is making plans to offer their delicious homemade candy Easter eggs. We will be making them on Saturday, March 12, and dipping and decorating on Saturday, March 19. We will be offering five flavors: peanut butter, coconut, chocolate, mint, and cream. The cost is \$7 for a six-ounce egg or for six one-ounce eggs. Be sure to order some for your children, grandchildren, or for yourself. See any member of the EY Circle or call Helen White (776-6638) to place your order. Profits from this project go to local missions, so please support it!



## SPRING FOOD PANTRY

By Fran Miller

Food Pantry Committee



As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Food Pantry Committee would like to have another food distribution day. The date will be **April 16**. 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 February and the items we would like. In March'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.

Feb. 7 - canned vegetables, pork & beans, peanut butter

Feb. 14 - canned vegetables, canned fruit, breakfast food (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix, etc.)

Feb. 21 - canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, dried beans, soups

Feb. 28 - canned vegetables, Ready Meals, canned meat

## UMM NEWS

By Warren Wright, UMM President



**T**he United Methodist Men will be meeting on Monday, February 22, at 7 p.m. At this meeting we will begin planning for our next mission opportunities, preparing kits for conference, and planning for 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.**

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

By Warren Wright

### The real story of Valentine's Day



Well, like every year, February 14 will be Valentine's Day. I wonder how many of you know the story behind the origins of Valentine's Day. You know, it is called Saint Valentine's Day for a reason.

Approximately 250 years after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there was a priest by the name of Valentine. He lived in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius, who was committed to rebuilding the once-great Roman army. However, he believed it was important for men to volunteer for armed service, rather than drafting men into service against their will. But, given a choice, most young men in the Roman Empire refused to serve. They'd rather stay at home with their wives and children than go off into battle.

Claudius came to believe that only single men would volunteer for service, so he issued a royal edict that banned all further marriages. He actually outlawed weddings in the Roman Empire, earning himself the nick-name Claudius the Cruel.

Valentine thought it was ridiculous! One of his favorite duties as a priest was to marry people. So after Emperor Claudius passed his law, Valentine secretly continued performing marriage ceremonies. He would whisper the words of the ceremony, while listening for soldiers on the steps outside.

One night, Valentine did hear footsteps at his door. The couple he was marrying escaped, but he was caught. He was thrown in jail and sentenced to death. Valentine tried to stay cheerful. Many of the young couples he had married came to visit him in jail. They threw flowers and notes up to his window. They wanted him to know that they, too, believed in love.

One day, he received a visit from the daughter of one of the prison guards. Her father allowed her to visit him in his cell and they often sat and talked for hours. She believed he did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and performing weddings. On the day Valentine was to die, he left her a note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. He signed it, "Love from your Valentine." That note started the custom of exchanging love notes on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day he died, February 14, 269 A.D.—a day that was set aside in honor of a man who gave his life for God and for love. Now, every year on this day, people remember Saint Valentine, but most importantly, they think about love.

My question for you today is—how do we develop and nurture a love worth giving on Valentine's Day and every day? The answer, I believe, is found in God's Word—**John 15:9-12. I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.**



# CLARKSBURY HYMNOLOGY 101

February 2016

"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

By Polly Van Benschoten



*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* Timothy 2:3

**W**hen I asked Don Van Benschoten about his favorite hymn, he named this one and says that he remembers singing it as a boy at his church in Stanfordville, New York.

"Onward, Christian Soldiers" is a 19th-century English hymn. The words were written by Sabine Baring-Gould in 1865. He was the curate of a parish in Yorkshire County in the north of England. He wrote this about the hymn which he never intended to be published. "It was written in a very simple fashion. Whit-Monday is a great day for school festivals in Yorkshire, and one Whit-Monday it was arranged that our school should join its forces with that of a neighboring village. I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to the other, but couldn't think of anything quite suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' was the result. It was written in great haste, and I am afraid some of the rhymes are faulty. Certainly nothing has surprised me more than its great popularity."

Baring-Gould was a prolific writer, as well as an Anglican minister; but the work for which he is most noted is this simple children's hymn. In 1871 Arthur Sullivan wrote the tune "St. Gertrude" for the hymn and this has been its standard melody ever since.

This hymn was sung at the funeral of American president Dwight Eisenhower at the National Cathedral, Washington, DC, March 1969.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
forward into battle see his banners go!

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;  
on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;  
brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;  
brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;  
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,  
this through countless ages men and angels sing.

**Our Vision:**

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

# The Grapevine

## February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	2  7 p.m. Trustees	3* <b>Percy Hattorf</b>	4  7 p.m. Chancel Choir	5* <b>Al Johnston</b>	6 Mobile Food Pantry  5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
7* <b>George Lee Clark</b> 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	8	9  7 p.m. EY Circle	10* <b>Jean Cree</b>  Ash Wednesday Service -Place And Time To Be Announced	11  7 p.m. Chancel Choir	12	13  5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
14 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	15* <b>Anne Tompkins</b>  11 a.m. Soup Ministry	16  7 p.m. Finance and Church Council	17* <b>Danny Mauney</b>  12 Noon Lenten Lunch  7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study	18  7 p.m. Chancel Choir	19	20  5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
21 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	22  7 p.m. UMM	23* <b>Virginia Clark</b>	24* <b>Hannah Clark</b>  12 Noon Lenten Lunch  7 p.m. Lenten Bible Study	25  7 p.m. Chancel Choir	26	27* <b>Diane Faulkner</b>  5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
28 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	29					

The deadline for the March 2016 Grapevine will be Tuesday, February 23. Send items to [vanben@va.metrocast.net](mailto:vanben@va.metrocast.net); place them in the office mailbox; or call 804-776-0569.

\***FEBRUARY 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 February are Lucy Blevins and Betty Tate.  
Val Bradley and Cacky Guill will serve as **ushers**.  
The **reader** is Lucy Blevins.