



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia

September 2016

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Luke 15:1-7, 10 (NRSV)

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Wow!! What a wonderful time at Vacation Bible School last month! What an amazing wave of God's love to catch. I hope you will catch some of the enthusiasm and energy for God that was filling our sanctuary and classroom and social hall and back yard. Such great crafts, music and singing, prayer and praising, yummy food, great smiles and loving laughter...words fail to capture all of the Jesus that was here through the volunteers from the community **and** our three churches.

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU!!!

Clarksbury...Zoar...Philippi...I think the Lord was very pleased with your service to and love for His children. I also think some of the adults had as much fun, if not MORE FUN, than some of our kids.

Now that I've told you about the energy and joy of the week of August 8-12, I can hardly suppress the excitement of the week **after** VBS. It's personal, of course, so bear with me as I share the excitement of a week with Calvin and his new "Baby Brother Nolan" as Calvin refers to his brother. If you follow me on Facebook you know how much fun Grandma and Grandpa had that entire week. Oh, lest you get the idea that it was all just Calvin and Nolan...we had a super time with Amanda and Kevin as well. See me if you want to see more pictures of our visit.

August is behind us with the successful VBS and now we are advancing quickly into SEPTEMBER!!! ALREADY? How can this be? The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for the first Saturday, September 3, from 9-11 a.m. Come serve with us; Philippi Christian has primary. But all are invited to come enjoy and help. There is always plenty of work to go around.

The Fall Food Bank is quickly approaching as well. Fran has posted **sign-up** sheets in the sanctuary for each phase of this several-week effort, and there will be more info in this Newsletter.

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In the scripture above Jesus is accused of being with the WRONG people. When we reflect on this scripture we see that He uses the parable to demonstrate LOVE...TRUE LOVE to ALL, without regard for social status, or even irrespective of cultural, moral standards of acceptable behavior.

Who among us is without sin? Jesus tells the people about a Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and is willing to go into the WILDERNESS to find US and carry US (**You & Me**) home and calls to ALL of us to rejoice for the LOST who have been found and brought back into the fold.

In several articles I've read, the vibrant, growing church is one which is focused OUTWARD into the surrounding community, NOT just focused internally on the individual issues of that church body. The focus also must be on charitable, loving outreach efforts...NOT because it is expected of us in the church...rather because Jesus CALLS....COMANDS us to share this LOVE with our neighbors.

My prayer is that WE continue to pray, meditate on His WORD daily, serve our community selflessly, and celebrate those sheep who have lost their way (like you and I

have at different times), are found, and return to the fold.

Our Charge Conference is set for October 16 at 2 p.m. at Lower UMC. There are many efforts and many items that we as a church need to review and work on as we work together for the FUTURE of Clarksbury UMC in 2017.

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

Keep our Soup Ministry, those who serve and are served, in your prayers. Think about where you can partner in and support this worthy ministry. Questions about how you can help can be directed to Kathy Wright or Helen White or as a last resort...Me☺.

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 2016 (Operating Funds) **\$108,223**
Total Received for Operating Funds as of July 31, 2016: **\$63,214.42**
Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: **\$63,130.08**

COFFEE HOUR FOR September

September 4	Betty Ann Tabler
September 11	Kathy Wright
September 18	Fran Miller
September 25	Linda Bartz



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

As a bright sunbeam comes into every window, so comes a love born of God's car
for every need.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Thoughts about Labor Day

By Warren Wright

I think **Labor Day** is a kind of strange holiday. While we call it "**Labor Day**," we try to do as little labor as possible and most working people have the day off. I don't recall anyone wishing me a "Happy Labor Day" or sending me a **Labor Day** card. We don't give corsages, decorate the house, or give **Labor Day** gifts. Even the florists and greeting card manufacturers haven't found a way to capitalize on it. Of course, it's a boon to resorts and tourist centers and a bad weekend for the Church because everyone wants to travel.

Like most things, **Labor Day** is different things to different people. To the factory or office worker, it may be a day off. But, for mothers who have both Dad and the kids to deal with, it's a tough day. For policemen, who must deal with extra heavy traffic and alcohol abuse, it's a tough day. To farmers and ranchers, it's just another day to feed the cattle and work in the field doing things that allow no holiday.

For Christians, it is an opportunity to talk about work and its rewards. Work is a very important part of God's revelation and will for people. God has always honored and provided work. God is a worker Himself and appreciates rest as he tells us in *Genesis 2:2*. He created us in His image and gave us work to do. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Even from the beginning, God gave men work to do, *Genesis 2:15*. When Jesus came to earth, God honored work: He announced His birth to working shepherds. Jesus Himself learned a trade and worked with His hands. Jesus chose working men as His apostles and called them from their labors to His side. Jesus preached His message to the working class and common people.

So you see we do carry our Christian principles into the work world, our work becomes a Christian ministry. This gives work new meaning and dignity.

We can't, on the other hand, claim to be Christians if our Christianity is only a one day a week affair. God does care what you do Monday through Friday whether you are an employee or employer. There is great encouragement in knowing this.

2 Thessalonians 3: 10- "For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat."

FALL FOOD PANTRY DAY

By Fran Miller

Food Pantry Committee

August has been unbelievably hot with heat indexes reaching 114 degrees, yet here I am writing an article about our Fall Food Pantry. Yes, the time to prepare for our Fall Food Pantry is here.



It is hard to believe that this ministry was started 7 years ago, in 2009. Since we started our food ministry, we have distributed over 1,600 bags of groceries to families in the area. Unfortunately, many in our community are still in need of our help. Therefore, we are going to hold a Fall Food Pantry again at our church in October. There are five members on the committee to coordinate this project, but in order for this effort to be successful, we again need your help!!

We will be delivering 600 empty grocery bags with a flyer stapled to it describing our food ministry to homes in the Hardyville/Deltaville area during the weekend of Saturday, October 8th. We are hoping that the residents will fill these bags with nonperishable and canned goods. We will then pick up the bags and bring them to the church on Saturday, October 15. Once the items are collected and organized, they will be bagged for the recipients. We will then be ready for the distribution on October 22. As you can see just by the description of the various steps involved, we need YOU to volunteer. We need volunteers to deliver the bags on October 7, 8, or 9th; pick up the bags on October 15; repack the bags on Wednesday, October 19; and greet and help the recipients bring bags to their cars on our Food Pantry Day, October 22. Young and old can help. If you can't lift a full bag, you can deliver an empty one. If you can't walk to the doors of the homes, perhaps you can drive others (youth) who can. Perhaps you can greet and talk to the recipients and offer them encouragement and let them know that this is just one of many wonderful things this church does. Whatever you can do will help. We want the entire congregation to take part!

There is a signup sheet in the sanctuary by the organ asking for volunteers for various jobs. Please sign up! Last year we had many of you volunteer. Please do so again! We know we can help a lot of people but we need YOU to make it happen.

UMM NEWS

By Warren Wright, UMM President



The United Methodist Men will meet on Monday, September 12th at 7 PM, resuming our Adam Hamilton study "Making Sense of the Bible." We will study chapters 18-19-20. The next regular business meeting will be held on Monday, September 26th at 6 PM followed by our study by Adam Hamilton, chapters 21-22-23. At our business meeting we will be finalizing plans for our Friday, October 28th *Barbeque Dinner*. Remember, 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

September 2016

By Polly Van Benschoten

Fanny Crosby



Frances Jane van Alstyne (1820 - 1915), more commonly known as **Fanny Crosby**, was an American mission worker, poet, lyricist, and composer. Born in Putnam County, New York, she was one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing over 8,000 hymns and gospel songs despite being blind. (She was blinded at the age of six weeks by improper medical treatment.) Fanny also wrote over 1,000 poems and had four books of poetry published. She was eight years old when she wrote her first poem, echoing her lifelong refusal to feel sorry for herself:



Oh, what a happy soul I am,
although I cannot see!
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.

How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't,
To weep and sigh because I'm blind
I cannot, and I won't!

Fanny was a student and later a teacher at the New York Institute for the Blind. She met her husband who was also blind and a teacher at the Institute. She was committed to Christian rescue missions and was known for her public speaking including addresses before the New York State Legislature and the U. S. Congress. Over the years she met a number of dignitaries and became friends with several national figures. She was a good friend with President Grover Cleveland who when he was a young man worked at the New York School for the Blind with her. She was asked to play the organ at President Grant's funeral. She was 95 when she died.

Almost every hymnbook today has several Fanny Crosby hymns in it. Our hymnal has seven. I dare say most of us are familiar with all of these. Which is your favorite?

"To God Be the Glory"
"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"
"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"
"Blessed Assurance"
"Close to Thee"
"I Am Thine, O Lord"
"Rescue the Perishing"

WORSHIP COMMITTEE
By David Dobson, Chairperson



Greetings beloved Church Family at Clarksbury.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank You! We had a wonderful time during Vacation Bible School August 8-12th and it was an amazing success because of all of you who were able to share your time and talents with us! 33 children, ages 2-14 were in attendance from at least 4 different local churches and even a couple attending from out of town. Crafts, music, recreation, food and community service were the highlights of a great week. We appreciate your support, prayers and contributions and look forward to 2019!

September 8, 6pm is a scheduled meeting of the Clarksbury UMC Worship Committee. We plan on discussing the good and bad with VBS, something(s) special for the fall season, and initial plans for a wonderful Christmas.

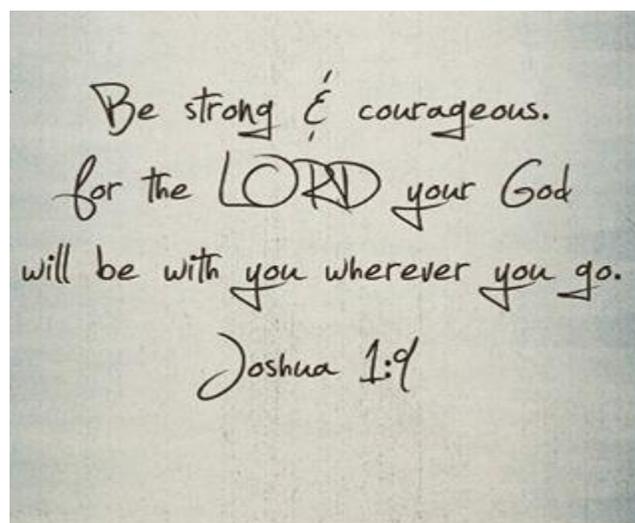
The September lectionary continues in the weeks following Pentecost with readings from the book of Jeremiah, which is a good read any time of year and relevant as ever. The Book of Jeremiah records the final prophecies to Judah, warning of oncoming destruction if the nation does not repent. *Jeremiah 1:5*, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." If you are reading this, God has a plan for you as well. We hope the efforts of the Worship Committee help you identify your gifts and share in our planned celebrations to the Glory of God!

Glory be to God! DD

A MESSAGE FROM VBS

By Jerry Dant, Director

If you missed coming to VBS one evening, you sure missed a great teaching of the word to our precious children of our community churches and neighborhood. It was a thrill to watch the eyes of the children when they saw the beautiful decorations and how they related those to the word of God. They enjoyed great music, Bible stories, crafts, recreation and especially the food, provided by all of the churches. The teens did several community service projects that included picking apples for the Cryer Center, cleaning a road side of trash and playing BINGO at Dockside, which was enjoyed by both the residents and youth as well. During VBS we collected donations for the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, our Mission fund for the week. We collected \$237.09! The Northern Neck Free Health clinic serves uninsured residents in 5 surrounding counties and is supported entirely by donations. Our final night was fabulous! The children sang songs they learned throughout the week, Scarlet, the parrot, and Snappy, the crab made everyone laugh and all of the kids became junior lifeguards. A reception of cake and lemonade followed the wonderful performances. Thanks to all who volunteered for VBS and the Worship Committee, which planned a great VBS. And remember; *Catch the Waves of God's Amazing Love.*



POWER OF PRAYER

By Ivey Huff



My introduction to Tithing

I was eleven years old. We had a new young minister, just out of Seminary and ready to change the world!

One Sunday morning, at the beginning of the Worship service, he asked all the officers of the church to come forward and stand in the front of the congregation . Twelve men came forward, six deacons and 6 elders.

The minister said they had been praying together about making a change in their personal lives.

He said that all twelve had made a pledge to tithe for 90 days; after that, they could continue or go back.

At the dinner table at home, after church, Mother said to my Father, "that was a brave promise you made"! He said it was not HIS promise alone but the whole family's promise. Each of us who got a regular payment would give 10% of it back to the Lord. My older brother, Ed, got an allowance of \$.50 per week - -that was easy! Mine was harder, I got \$.25 per week! We had no 2 ½ cent coin. Being good at math, I decided that I would give two cents one week, then 3 cents the next week.

The next Sunday, as Ed and I were walking to church, he asked me if I had my tithe ready, if so show it to him. I took out two pennies. He said, "what a cheapskate ! Don't sit near me, I don't want anyone to know we're related! Of course, we had been in that church for all our lives! He won, of course. When I got to the door of the church, I put the pennies away and took out a nickel! In a way that was good, 'cause the next year when I turned 12, my allowance went to 50 cents so I didn't have to increase my tithe, I was already there!

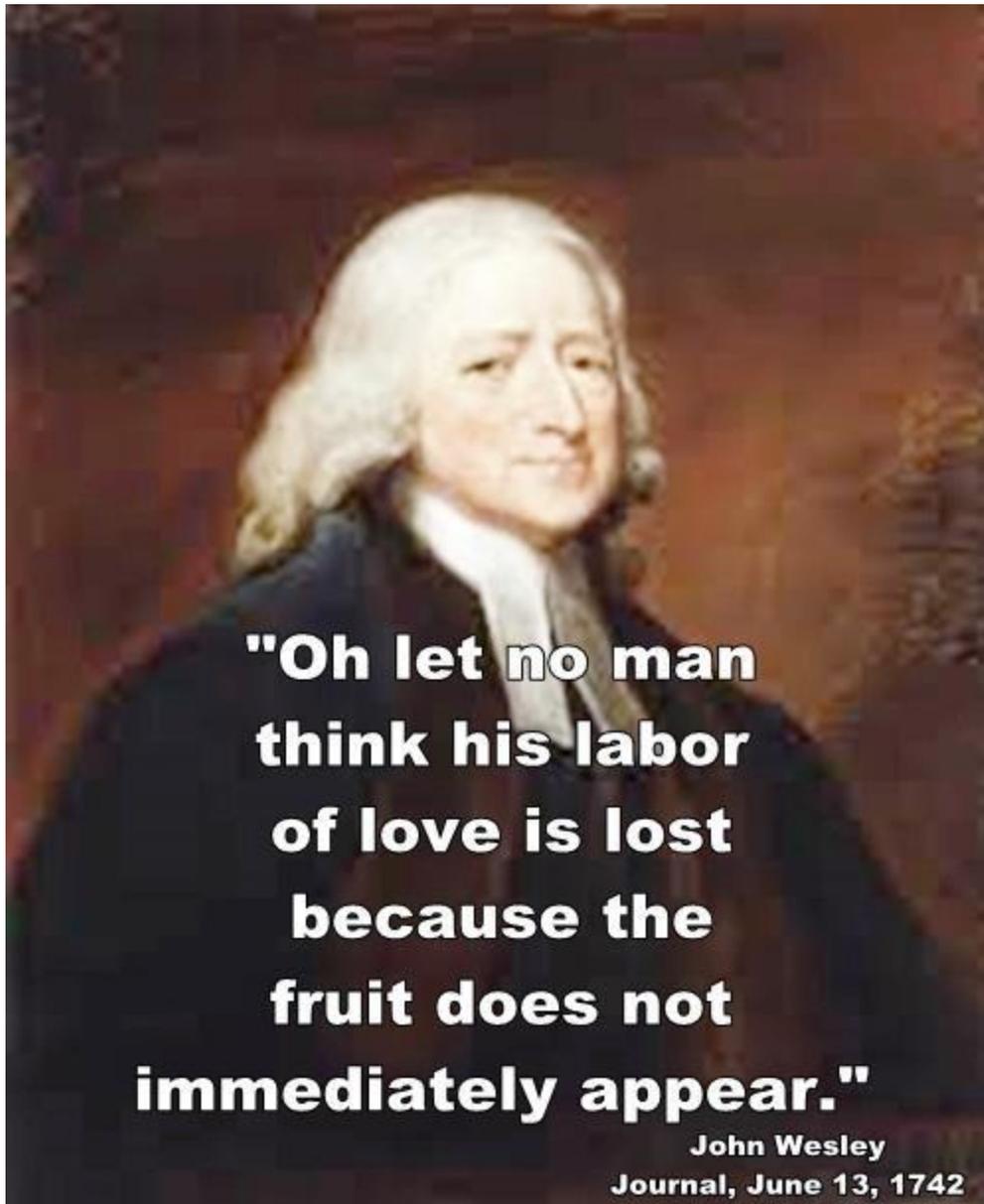
Once, I asked my Dad why the minister always asked us to "present our tithes and offerings". Should I be giving more? He said no, the offering is what the visitors give! That seemed okay.

A small problem arose when I got into High School! My allowance was increased to \$1.00 per week. In Richmond, there were no school busses to pick you up, you had the choice of walking or paying to ride the bus or trolley. The city gave us a special price, still it was ten times per week! Also, sometimes I had to buy books (second hand) from students who had just finished the course). Finally, I approached my Dad and asked for "some relief". He stared at me for a minute then said, "Listen, child (!) for every dollar you receive, you get to spend \$.90 of it for anything you want, the remaining 10 cents belongs to the Lord, who has given you so many blessings in your life. Well, put that way, I had no response, except to say Okay!

Seventy-five years later, I not only say okay, I recommend it to all of you who haven't experienced it.

Ivey Huff

Let us rejoice in our Faith and Church Family everywhere!



**"Oh let no man
think his labor
of love is lost
because the
fruit does not
immediately appear."**

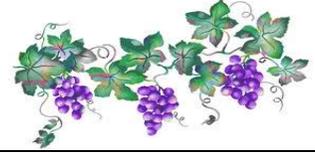
**John Wesley
Journal, June 13, 1742**

Our Vision:

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



The Grapevine September 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	2	3 Sydney Funk Sierra Funk 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
4 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	5 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	6 7 p.m. Trustees	7	8Dawn Crittenden 6p.m. Worship Committee Meeting 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	9	10 Roegean Speight 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
11 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	12	13 7p.m. EY circle	14 Ashley Moore	15 Petra Walian 7p.m. Chancel Choir	16 Conner Crittenden	17 Linda Bartz 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
18 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	19 Amber Mauney Brittany Mauney 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	20 Finance & Church Council 7 p.m.	21	22 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	23 Norman Sibley Bobby Weis	24 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
25 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	26	27 Betty Morris Jerry Dant	28	29 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	30 Sue Myers	

The deadline for the October 2016 Grapevine will be Saturday, September 24 . Send items to pwalian@yahoo.com.
September 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 September are Helen White and Petra Walian
Becky Foster and Abigail Foster will serve as ushers.
The reader is Petra Walian