



The Grapevine

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

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 17:2-9 (NRSV)

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Can you believe it? We are already through the first month of the year...January is gone.

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner (March 1) with six weeks of Lent following, leading up to Holy Week and Easter, and before you know it we are half-way through the year.

Whew, I need to catch my breath...I get excited at times...don't you?

Do not panic just yet; we still have lots to do in this month of February.

Our "Warming Tree" is still up and will be through February at least...maybe longer if cold weather lingers. It really is heartwarming to consider how many people have already been blessed by so many of the items provided: gloves, scarves, hats, and even sweaters and shawls. You all are so very generous.

The February Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for Saturday, February 4. On Sunday, February 5, the Edna Yankovich Circle will pack their cookies for soldiers. Our Food Bank distribution will take place on Saturday, February 18. As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities to serve the Lord...many ways to employ willing hands and tasks aplenty to go around for all of us.

Before we rush into Lent let us take time to enjoy all the seasons of the Christian year. We had Epiphany on January 6 where we celebrated the three Wise Men who came bearing gifts from afar. Then we have seven weeks until Transfiguration Sunday, February 26, described in the scripture above, where Jesus is announced to His inner circle (Peter, James and John) in the most awe inspiring way, where they witness... *"he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white..."* *"suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"*

I can only imagine how in awe and wonder the disciples were...even Peter is so astonished he can't think straight...*"Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."* I would be right there with Peter, so astounded and astonished that I would be irrational or at least illogical in my reactions and responses.

Imagine, **seeing** Elijah AND Moses there with Jesus bathed in brilliant light and **hearing** the thunder of the voice of God speaking to them...telling them that Jesus is the beloved of the Lord; **commanding** them to listen to HIM.

What would you think? What would you do? How would you respond?

We have those same commands coming to us from across the ages, telling us how to serve our King, what it is that we should do for His children, our Brothers and Sisters. As we do unto the least of these we do unto Jesus!

Then LENT will be here as we start with Ash Wednesday on March 1. We will hear more about all the ministries leading up to Lent in due time; for now let us worship our King and Savior with our service to "the least and the lost" throughout February.

I will urge and commend all of you over the next few weeks to PRAY, to MEDITATE on GOD'S WORD and to look to what you CAN DO for our COMMUNITY and OUR CHURCH.

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

Peace & Grace
Pastor Ken

Budget information updated as numbers are available. Thank you for your understanding.

Annual Budget for 2017(Operating Funds) \$112,185
Total Received for Operating Funds as of January 31, 2017: **\$9207.00**
Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: **\$9348.75**

*“Homes that are built on anything other than love
are bound to crumble.” Billy Graham*

COFFEE HOUR FOR February

February 5	Helen White
February 12	Diane Faulkner
February 19	Val Bradley
February 26	Mary Banker



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

UMM NEWS

By Warren Wright, UMM President



The United Methodist Men will continue with the 3rd session of their Bible Study, "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton on Monday, February 6th at 7 pm. Our regular monthly business meeting will be held on Monday February 27th at 6 PM followed by the 4th session of our 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



A good illustration of Christ like patience is seen in the life of Abraham Lincoln. From his earliest days in politics, Lincoln had a critic, and enemy, who continually treated him with contempt, a man by the name of Edwin Stanton. Stanton would say to newspaper reporters that Lincoln was a "low cunning clown" and "the original gorilla." He said, "it was ridiculous for explorers to go to Africa to capture a gorilla when they could find one easily in Springfield Illinois." Lincoln never responded to such slander; he never retaliated in the least. And when as President, he needed a Secretary of War, he selected Edwin Stanton. When his friends asked why, Lincoln replied, "Because he is the best man for the job." Years later, that fateful night came when an assassin's bullet murdered the President in a theater. Lincoln's body was carried off to another room. Stanton came and, looking down upon the silent, rugged, face of his dead President, he said through his tears, "There lays the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen." Stanton's animosity had finally been broken. How? By Lincoln's patient, long suffering, non-retaliatory love.

No matter how much love is ill-treated or scorned, love is kind

In Romans, Chapter 8, verses 35 & 37 & 38, we hear these words. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[1 Corinthians 13:4-5 \(NIV\)](#)- "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs".



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By David Dobson, Chairperson

The worship held its first meeting of 2017 on 17 January 2017. Topics of discussion included a review of events of 2016 and ways to make 2017 a great one of praise and worship.

To start February out with a bang, we have successfully arranged to have Tommy Thompson play a special Friday night performance Clarksbury on 3 February 2017. The concert at 7pm will be preceded by a spaghetti dinner with a suggested donation of \$10 per plate. Since Tommy does not accept payment, we will take this collection to help him with expenses on furthering his ministry of song. It is the first of great things planned.

Be ready for other musical surprises during the month as Becky has been hard at work planning our relevant song, in conjunction with the Adult and Children's choirs, with a few special things tossed in. You do not want to miss any Sunday!

Lenten lunches will again be front and center preceding Easter and include guest speakers and lunch. Pastor Ken will begin a congregational bible study with *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Of course, Easter week will be busy and include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter (sunrise and regular) services in conjunction with our community sister churches Zoar and Philippi. Additional details will be provided in the appropriate monthly newsletters.

As always, the committee is dedicated in keeping the worship services engaging, thoughtful, and fun. If we fail to provide, please let us know what you think needs to change so it can be considered.

Winter Food Pantry Committee

By Fran Miller, Chairperson

Thanks to the generous donations of our church family and the community and grant money we received through the hard work of Warren Wright, Clarksbury is able to add another Food Pantry Day to the ones we already do. That makes 3 Food Pantry Days a year! The next Food Pantry Day will be Saturday, February 18 from 9-11 a.m. Thanks to all the monies we have collected the Food Pantry Committee is able to purchase enough food for 120 grocery bags and 60 bags of toiletries. The bags are packed and ready to go but we still need your help! We need volunteers for that Saturday to meet, greet, serve coffee, distribute the groceries, and help people to their cars with their bags. There is plenty of work to go around so please sign up to volunteer. The sign-up sheet is by the organ in the sanctuary. Thanks for your help in advance! Yours In Christ,

The Food Pantry Committee

Cookie Project

By Fran Miller, EY Circle Chairperson



The Edna Yankovich Circle is having their annual cookie project for servicemen (and women) again. We will be bringing cookies to the church for packing on Sunday, February 5th. If you would like to help with this project, please bring your cookies that day packed in plastic containers. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help with postage instead, please give the money to Fran Miller by that Sunday.

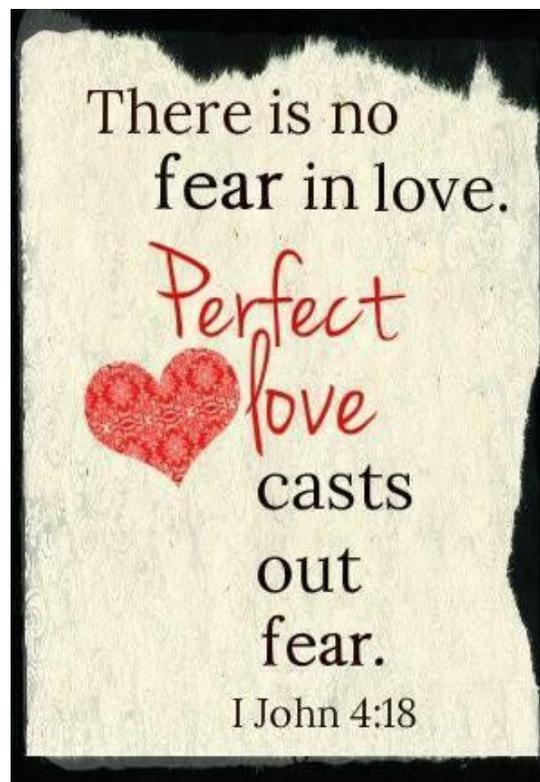
NURTURE AND CARE COMMITTEE

By Jerry Dant, Chairperson



Well, the holidays are over and we are coming up on Valentines Day. When I was growing up, that was a time when you left a card on the porch of friends, then knocked and ran before they came to the door. It was also known as "Sweetheart Day." So why not when you are out shopping pick up some valentine cards and send one or more to our home bound residents. It will make their day and oh how much better you will feel from sending a card to a church member, who is unable to come to church on Sunday. I bet you will feel better and I know from past experience they will enjoy it and appreciate you for remembering them on Valentine's Day.

A list of the names and addresses of the home bound members will be on a red heart on the bulletin board in the reception hall in church. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, the Nurture Committee.



Hymnology 101

February 2017

By Polly Van Benschoten

“Help Us Accept Each Other” Page 560



Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

We sang the first verse of this hymn for our choral benediction on January 22. It was written by hymn writer Fred Kaan (1929-2009). He was born in Haarlem in the Netherlands. He lived through the Nazi occupation, saw three of his grandparents die of starvation, and witnessed his parents' deep involvement in the resistance movement. They took in a number of refugees. He began attending church in his teens.

He was ordained in the United Reformed Church. In 1963 he was called to be minister of the Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England. It was in this congregation that he began to write hymns. He wrote this hymn in 1974. Romans 15:7 provides a scriptural basis for stanza 1: “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Stanza two asks for grace to accept all people unconditionally. In stanza three we find that accepting others changes us. We find in stanza 4 that forgiveness and acceptance free us and make us one.

Kaan wrote more than 200 hymns. He sought to address issues of peace and justice in his work. There are seven other hymns in our United Methodist Hymnal written or translated by him. He, along with other hymn writers from England, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, brought the language and theological vision of hymnody out of the earlier Victorian era into the late 20th century. He died at the age of 80 after a long struggle with cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

PROJECTS COMPLETED BY TRUSTEES IN 2016

Capital Improvements:

Pressure Tank for Water Pump	\$657.00
Rinnai Hot Water Heater and Hot Water Heater for Men's RR	\$2,775.00
New Gas Tank	\$890.00
Leaf Guard Gutters (parsonage)	\$4,111.00

Maintenance:

Termite Contract (church)	\$450.00
Termite Contract (parsonage)	\$375.00
Generator Maintenance (parsonage)	\$247.92
Plowed Snow (church)	\$150.00
Flowers for Porch	\$156.12
Security Monitoring	\$360.00
Handicap Signs & Poles	\$75.88
Sound System & Mike	\$1,337.35
Replace Shower Valve (parsonage)	\$123.17
Ant Treatment	\$175.00
Outdoor Plants	\$182.57
Pump Repairs	\$230.00
Lawn Mower Repairs (parsonage)	\$194.79
Clean Playground	\$195.00
Service Heat Pumps & Renew Contract on Split Units	\$645.00
Replace Washer Drain (parsonage)	\$368.70

TOTAL **\$13,699.50**

In addition to the above items, the Trustees have volunteered a number of hours on projects around our church. These include: maintaining flower beds, replacing hedges on the west side of kitchen, spraying weed killer where needed, power washing the siding, trimming hedges, cleaning light globes in the sanctuary and social hall, scraping and repainting areas in the narthex and balcony.

POWER of PRAYER

From The New Testament in Modern English (Translated by J.B Phillips, 1964)
Paul's letter to the Corinthians (Book I, chapters 12:31 -14:1)

You should set your **hearts** on the best spiritual gifts, but I shall show you a way which surpasses them all.

If I speak with the eloquence of men and of angels, but have no **love**, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I also have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have that absolute faith, which can move mountains, but have no **love**, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no **love**, I achieve precisely nothing.

This **love** of which I speak is slow to lose patience--it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive:it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good *people* when truth prevails.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

For if there are prophecies they will be fulfilled and done with, if there are "tongues" the need for them will disappear, if there is knowledge it will be swallowed up in truth. For our knowledge is always incomplete and our prophecy is always incomplete, and when completion comes, that is the end of the incomplete.

When I was a little child I talked and felt and thought like a little child. Now that I am a man my childish speech and feeling and thought have no further significance for me.

At the present we are *people* looking at a puzzling reflection in a mirror. The time will come when we shall see reality whole and face to face! At present all I know is a little fraction of the truth, but the time will come when I shall know it as fully as God now knows me!

In this life we have three great lasting qualities--faith, hope and **love**. But the greatest of them is **love**.

Follow, then, the way of love, while you set your **heart** on the gifts of the Spirit. The highest gift you can wish for is to be able to speak the messages of God.

**May God's Loving-est Blessings fill your Valentine's Day
-- all day, everyday!**

Our Vision:

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



The Grapevine

February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:30p.m. Chancel Choir	3 Percy Hattorf Tommy Thompson Concert/ Spag dinner	4 Mobile Food Pantry 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
5 Al Johnston 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion Pack Cookies	6 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	7 George Lee Clark 7 p.m. Trustees	8	9 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	10 Jean Cree	11 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
12 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	13	14 7:00p.m. EY Circle	15 Anne Thompkins	16 7p.m. Chancel Choir	17 Danny Mauney	18 John Robertson Food Bank Distribution 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
19 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	20 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	21 Finance & Church Council 7 p.m	22	23 Virginia Clark 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	24 Hannah Clark	25 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
26 Transfiguration Sunday 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	27 Diane Faulkner	28				

The deadline for the March 2017 Grapevine will be Tuesday, February 21. Send items to pwalian@yahoo.com.
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
 Al Miller & Lynn Bisogno will serve as **ushers**.
 The **reader** is Lucy Blevins