



# The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church  
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia January 2017  
[www.clarksburyumc.com](http://www.clarksburyumc.com)

Our Mission:

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

## Pastor Ken's Corner

Ephesians 3:7-12 (NRSV)

*<sup>7</sup> 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.*

*<sup>8</sup> 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,*

*<sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;*

*<sup>10</sup> 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.*

*<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

*<sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.*

Wow...what a wonderful Christmas Cantata, a glorious luncheon and great celebration afterwards, and such a beautiful Christmas Eve Service! God's wonders keep getting better and better. When I'm thinking of Advent and Christmas and most of all the real reason for the season... Jesus Christ, I focus on my love of the music and the words of joy and hope in so many of the hymns and songs. I enjoy the decorated sanctuary...the Chrismon tree, all the wreaths and greenery that drape the altar rail, all the light sconces, the red bows...I love how warm and happy those look.

Ok...I got that out of my system.© © Now we are looking back on New Year's Day (which will have passed by the time the Grapevine hits the streets). The year 2016 is past and now we are rushing into 2017...so much ahead to close out the year and open up for the New Year that is here.

Paul is talking about God's gifts to him and by extension to us. His grace, which has many ways to manifest itself in our lives and for a purpose..."**this grace was given**

*to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,"*

God's gifts and His purpose often escape us because we don't have the wisdom to see " *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.*"

We **have** God's gift of his grace and through the church...the body of believers... **You and Me...we can see** the plan God has had so that everyone will see that plan...God's plan...which we can come to understand and see through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is more than just a reason to celebrate a portion of our year, much more than a season of our lives. Jesus Is the Way, The Truth and the Life.

So we have God's gift of Grace...we can see His plan if we only believe...all of this to the purpose of God, which we may or may not be able to see yet...but in faith and truth we hope to one day see and understand more clearly. *"<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him."*

The purpose of my starting this New Year with these scriptures is to provide a **jump start** to our year, one based **not upon the worldly indicators** we might perceive or see for our New Year. Rather, that we start this New Year off TRUSTING in God's GRACE, TRUSTING in God's PLAN and PURPOSES, so that we face the New Year with a boldness and confidence that no matter what the year may bring...God is whom we have our Faith and Hope in and we have access to him because of our trust and belief IN HIM.

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU for an Amazing 2016!!

I am so looking forward to the ministries God has in store for Clarksbury in 2017!!!

My prayer is that WE continue to pray, meditate on His WORD daily, serve our community selflessly, and celebrate those lost sheep who have lost their way (like you and I have at different times) when they are found and returned to the fold.

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. Keep our Warming Tree in your prayers as well as we continue this ministry into February.

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 2016 (Operating Funds) **\$108,223**

Total Received for Operating Funds as of November 27, 2016: **\$95,814.16**

Income Needed to Date to Meet Budget: **\$99,204.42**

“Worry is a total waste of time.  
It doesn’t change anything.  
All it does is steal your joy and keeps you very busy doing nothing.”

### COFFEE HOUR FOR January

January	1	Polly Van Benschoten
January	8	Lucy Blevins
January	15	Janis Slaughter
January	22	Surprise
January	29	Terry Cleveland



*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 begin their new Bible Study, "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Our regular monthly business meeting will be held on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM followed by the second 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



Wow, it's hard to believe 2016 is now history and we now begin 2017. Reflecting back on 2016, Clarksbury has a lot to be proud of. We've had a great year of worship under the leadership of Pastor Ken and Terry. God has truly blessed our church with their ministry. Clarksbury just seems to be so much more alive with a renewed enthusiasm to serve God and our fellow man. Together as a church we have accomplished many goals in 2016. Our hard work at fundraisers has allowed us to serve our community and beyond with generous gifts. The UMW and UMM are very active in the ministries and missions of the church. We have given time and monetary gifts to Nursing Home Ministries, Stop Hunger Now, Hands Across Middlesex, Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry, St. Andrew Potato Project, Heart Havens, Christmas Friends, Clarksbury Food Pantry, Warming Tree, Soup Ministry, and others. We have stepped out of our "comfort zone" many times reaching out into the community to accomplish the work that God has entrusted us to do for His glory. We need to ride this momentum, for there is much more work to be done in 2017. The community must see us as a working church, willing to do what others will not do, and open to all.

Have a great New Year and may the love of our Lord and Savior bless you and your family in 2017.

**Matthew 6:33-"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all things will be given to you as well".**

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

By David Dobson, Chairperson



Greetings my fellow Church members,  
Greetings and Happy New Year! Although we were not able to do all we wished in 2016, the Worship Committee is not deterred and will again focus on providing an exciting and meaning full worship program in 2017. Our first meeting of the year will be Tuesday, January 17 2017 at 7pm and we will work primarily on the Easter Service plans. Of course, we will check the church calendar and add in something special where warranted and even a surprise or two. Above all, we hope to raise a joyful noise and *spirit* in 2017 as we strive to bring glory to God.

Peace be with you all.



## Soup and Warming Tree Ministry

By Kathy Wright, Chairperson

The committee, Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Helen White, and myself, Kathy Wright, would like to THANK EVERYONE from the bottom of our hearts for volunteering to make homemade soup during the 2016 year. We would also like to THANK EVERYONE for contributing to the "warming tree." What a huge success this new mission has been! We will continue to have our "warming tree" in the fellowship hall through March, giving us more opportunities to distribute warm articles for those in need. There are angels among us. So, please keep bringing those warm articles! If you have any questions, please call Kathy Wright at 757-373-9166 or send an email [kdwright@va.metrocast.net](mailto:kdwright@va.metrocast.net). God Bless you for participating in these two very important missions of Clarksbury U.M.C.



## NURTURE AND CARE COMMITTEE

By Jerry Dant, Chairperson

The committee has been *blessed* in the month of December with the warm weather. We have seen some of our home bound members in church. It is always great to see them in church as well as their homes. Each home bound member received a special Christmas card from the church as well as a visit from committee members with a small remembrance from the church for Christmas. Each visit was delightful and we feel we received more than they received from the visit. It was a joy to sit down and discuss old times and friends with each one. It is the committee's intention to visit each home bound member once a month. If you would like to join us in our visit, please give me a call and we will have a great visit.



## POWER OF PRAYER

Wonderful and Glorious God,

You told us through the Prophets that the Savior of us all was coming, and would be a Light for all to see and follow your Way, and truly, that Light does live in our hearts. Through the Holy Spirit and faith, we live in your love and show it in the way we live our lives. Your Light is the answer to those in the dark, and we pray that all mankind accepts you in their heart.

I pray that according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. Ephesians 3:16-17 NRSV.

Submitted by Fred Dant

*Let us rejoice in our Faith and Church Family everywhere!*

**Do all the good you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
To all the souls you can,  
In every place you can,  
At all the times you can,  
With all the zeal you can,  
As long as you ever can.**

*- John Wesley*

## Our Vision:

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



# The Grapevine

## January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	3 7 p.m. Trustees	4	5 Lee White 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	6	7 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
8 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	9 Cheryl Teagle	10 7:00p.m. EY Circle	11 Al Wild	12 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	13	14 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
15 Lucy Blevins  10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	16 11 a.m. Soup Ministry	17 Finance & Church Council 7 p.m	18 Susan Valencia	19 7p.m. Chancel Choir	20	21 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
22 Terry Cleveland 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	23	24	25	26 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 Nevin Ramsburg	28 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
29 Abigail Foster Amber Clark 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30	31				

The deadline for the February 2017 Grapevine will be Tuesday, January 24. Send items to [pwalian@yahoo.com](mailto:pwalian@yahoo.com).  
**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  
 The Dobson family will serve as **ushers**.  
 The **reader** is Nevin Ramsburg