

Wesley Grove

September 2016

Messenger

From Pastor Karen Davis...

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The sun is low in the sky as I stroll along the Holden Beach sand. My eyes are fixed on the treasures left by the receding tide. Bending to pick up a shell, it strikes me that I am no longer interested in adding a perfect specimen to my yearly collection. My attention is drawn to those gifts of the sea that are perfectly imperfect: an old piece of coral; a sea biscuit with a hole bored neatly through its center; an ancient stone that bears a fossilized imprint of a tiny pre-historic sea creature; a shell that the sea has shaped into a rare piece of art.

There was a time when I would have looked past these older relics or tossed them back into the ocean as I sought those that were pristine and flawless in design. But I now, I find that perfection no longer interests me. I am captivated by the old and time-worn.

I imagine the tales that these battered and worn remnants could tell. Stories of years spent clinging to the ocean floor providing an anchor and a home for its inhabitant. Sagas of being tossed in violent seas and carried by shifting currents. Legends of being swept onto sandy shores only to be washed back into the waves at the turn of tide.

It occurs to me that I am drawn to these perfectly imperfect skeletons of the deep because they characterize the shape of our lives. In our youth, we equate beauty with perfection. But as we are tossed, battered, and worn by the ever-changing tides of life, our woundedness shapes us into unique pieces of art. No matter how odd or embarrassing, ours becomes a story that only we can tell, and ours is a tale that can inspire others to be courageous and persevere when assailed by the storms of life.

No matter the shape of our lives, we are God's beloved children, worthy of love and respect, and even when we feel as if we are being tossed and tumbled, God is using us to change the world. As we engage in ministry together, I look forward to hearing the stories of your life ... the good, the bad, and the ugly. And I pray that together, we will discover and learn to appreciate the unique beauty of all of God's perfectly imperfect children.

In God's peace,

Pastor Karen



Lectionary Readings

September 4, 2016

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Philemon 1:1-21
 Luke 14:25-33

September 11, 2016

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
 Psalm 14
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10

September 18, 2016

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
 Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

September 25, 2016

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31

July 2016 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,413.50
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.70
Pastor Benefits	\$468.74
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$847.50
Payroll Taxes	\$57.22
Grass Cutting	\$630.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$344.25
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Trustees - Maintenance	\$2,520.99
Total Expenses	\$8,571.90

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$5,094.17
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,815.11
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,313.46
Grocery eScrips	\$0.00
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$0.00
Total Income	\$8,222.74

September Birthdays

1	Carol Stone	20	Pat Mallon
7	Tina Green	23	Max Lynagh
10	Sally Lewis	24	Tony Bowie
	Shane Kepner	30	Jackie Hottinger
11	Doug Gaither		
13	Alex Allman		
17	Debbie Speier		



Henry and Joyce King announce the birth of their fourth great-grandchild. Temperance Raine Black was born on June 24, 2016, weighing 6lb. 7oz, and measuring

19 inches. She is the first child of Sarah King Black and David Black of Lander, Wyoming, and is the second grandchild of Wayne and Dawn King, also of Lander, Wyoming. And congratulations to Henry, who celebrated his 80th birthday on August 1 with a large party and announced his retirement on that date (sort of).

Administrative Council Meeting

August 8, 2016

In attendance: Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Pastor Karen Davis, Lewis Burdette, Becky Lewis, Andi Brickman, Tammy Monarch, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Ollie Gray

Devotional: Tammy Monarch read from "Power of the Other" by Dr. Henry Cloud, part of Chapter Two on the "Science of Relationships."

Good News Items: VBS had a good week with great attendance. Picnic was a success with great music and we met new friends from Asbury UMC. Damascus community parade was good. St. Martin's soup kitchen and the Grace UMC brown bag program went well. Choir caroling at the nursing homes and singing at the Baptist Church was fun. Parsonage looked great for the new pastor. Pastor Karen is very excited about being at WGUMC and has two colleagues that she knows well here in the Damascus area. The congregation is excited about her dynamic sermons.

Action Items: Tammy Monarch made a motion to accept the May 16, 2016 minutes as written and published, Rick Monarch seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

Committee Reports

Missions - Jackie Hottinger: Currently collecting supplies for the Back to School backpacks.

Christian Education - Tammy Monarch: Sunday school starts back on September 11 with three classes like last year. The pastor will be at the Sunday school classes once a quarter.

Finance - Rick Monarch: All members should have received a half-year giving statement. Jim Kemp wrote letters to the county to have the church and parsonage tax bills evaluated.

Trustees - Andi Brickman: Pastor Karen has moved into the parsonage and everything seems to be working well.

Worship - Becky Lewis for Doug Gaither: The youth will lead the service on Laity Sunday followed by the Crop Walk and luncheon.

SPRC - Ollie Gray: All terms have been agreed on for the four-point charge between all of the churches. The pastors will rotate pulpits once a month. Jaime Crawford is the new church secretary and will work on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Christian Fellowship - Becky Lewis: The Blessing of the Animals on September 24 has a time change to 10 a.m. until noon due to the cantata that evening.

Communications - Becky Lewis for Scott Iles: Josh Park is the new church webmaster. Jaime will be learning Robocall.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Karen: Thank you to everyone, lots of work has happened for her move and transition. The church and the whole Damascus community have been fabulous!

Old Business: Beta testing for the "How Safe" application needs an iPad and will be revisited in the future. Kris Kepner is still checking into the price of AEDs. Tammy wrote a strong VBS emergency planning action plan.

New Business: The property caretaker needs to schedule a weekly walk to pick up trash, pull weeds, etc. Ollie will speak with him. Charge Conference will be October 26, 7 p.m., at Mt. Tabor.

Next meeting will be Monday, September 12th, 7:30 p.m. Devotions for next meeting will be Ollie Gray.

Meeting adjourned by Bob Burke at 9:14 p.m.

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

The Lord God made them all, and we will bless them all on Saturday, September 24, from 10 a.m. until noon when the South Damascus Charge sponsors the Annual Blessing of the Animals at the Damascus Shopping Center. Bring your pets, tell your neighbors, and pick up a flyer in the Greeting Room for your veterinarian's office. We'll have some light refreshments on hand, and all pets will receive a Certificate of Blessing.

September means back to school for some; for others, it means it's time to clean out their closets to get ready for the Fall Yard Sale, set for Saturday, September 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. You can rent a space for \$15 by calling Tammy Monarch at 301-253-0044, or you can donate gently used items for sale at the church booth (please, no clothing or televisions). If you aren't selling (or even if you are!), plan to buy: maybe some treasures, definitely breakfast and/or lunch from the United Methodist Men, who will sell their always-popular breakfast sandwiches along with grilled items, French fries, drinks, and more. We will sort and price items for sale on Thursday, September 15, at 7 p.m.; please have your items at the Education Building before that time. Help with sorting is always welcome, as is help throughout the day on Saturday. Please see Becky or Brian Lewis.

Jackie and Donnie Hottinger will host Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, September 11, a date change due to our new friends from Asbury inviting us to their Homecoming Luncheon on Sunday, September 18. There will be a sign-up sheet for the noon luncheon, which is provided. Also on the September calendar are the Daytime Circle's Brown Bag lunch at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building

on Wednesday, September 7, and Ladies Lunch Out will meet on Wednesday, September 21, at noon at the Music Cafe.

Looking ahead to October, mark your calendars for the Crop Walk and Lunch after service on Sunday, October 16, (which is also Laity Sunday) and for our annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 29. To finalize plans for these and other events, the Christian Fellowship Committee will meet on Thursday, September 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Come See The Capitol Steps at Damascus High School

The Capitol Steps, a Washington, D.C.-based comedy troupe, will present a show based on songs from their current album, "What to Expect When You're Electing" at the Damascus High School auditorium on Sunday, October 9 at 7 p.m. The show consists of tasteful lampooning guaranteed to leave both sides of the political spectrum laughing. Come join us for a fun-filled evening while also supporting our community. Tickets are available at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/capitol-steps-october-9-2016-tickets-26234887254> (\$30 in advance and \$40 at the door). Buy early, and you can choose your own seats! Contact Tam-

Montgomery County Farm Park

Remember to save Saturday, October 1, to help at our church booth at the Montgomery County Farm Park's Fall Harvest Festival on Muncaster Road in Derwood. We will once again be grilling and selling food, including burgers, hot dogs, and sodas on this day. Contact Rick Monarch at 301-253-0044 to volunteer or if you would like more information.

Communications Committee

Scott Iles, Chair

Greetings, everyone:

We are updating our Parishioner Information System (PARIS), and the Office Manager would like to ensure that all information is up to date. Please contact the Office Manager (call the church office or email to wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org) to ensure that your information, including any Robocall lists that you would like to be on and what committees you are on, is updated. Just a reminder that this committee never endorses the release of parishioner information to any third parties.

Additionally, the church's Robocall system is used to inform the church members of various types of notices. One of those regards the health status of church members. The Office Manager will send out a Robocall message concerning a parishioner's health/wellness issue ONLY if that parishioner or a representative requests that such information be sent out via a Robocall. Otherwise, the Joys and Concerns segment of our Sunday worship is most often where such information is shared.

Thanks for your continued support, and keep communicating!

Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

Welcome back! We will return to our regular Sunday School schedule beginning on Sunday, September 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Education Building. All children, youth, and adults are welcome! If you had a fabulous time at VBS this summer, you will have an even better time at Sunday school this fall! Our lessons will focus on the prophecy and destiny of Jesus displayed throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Each week, we will include a fun mixture of music, drama, art, readings, crafts, videos, and/or discussions. So, mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for the start of Sunday school again on September 11 – we will be waiting for you!



Speaking of returning to school, please remember to **renew your Safeway, Giant, and Harris Teeter grocery cards** for the new school year. You must do this every year. Be sure to enter your name, your card number (s), and the name(s) of the schools, churches, and/or other nonprofit organizations to which you would like to donate funds. Remember to make Wesley Grove one of your choices! Giant: www.giantfood.com; Safeway: www.escrip.com; Harris Teeter's Together in Education (TIE) webpage: link your Harris Teeter VIC card to a particular school, like Damascus HS (#2729).



Fall Yard Sale & Fundraising Cookout

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

**23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894**

**Saturday, September 17, 2016
9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Cooked-To-Order Breakfast Sandwiches
Grilled Lunch Platters
Bake Sale**

**Rent a Space for ONLY \$15
Benefit the Church
And Your Closets!
*Rain or Shine!***

***Look For Us In The Education Building If It's Wet!
Call 301-253-0044 to reserve your space.***

Don't Throw That Away!

Remember to save items for our area schools, libraries, and nursing homes. Just collect them in a baggie or envelope, and then give it to Tammy when it is full. All of our local facilities appreciate your help!

Here is a list of most of those things...

General Mills Box Tops for Education:

These box tops can be found on all General Mills products (including cereal, granola bars, rice mixes, pasta mixes, etc.), Bisquick, Betty Crocker cake mixes and frosting, Old El Paso products, Kleenex brand tissues, Zip-lock and Hefty plastic bags and paper plates, Avery office supplies, Yoplait yogurt, and many other products, so check out your packaging carefully before throwing it away. Each one is worth 10 cents, so the money can add up quickly!

Campbell's Labels for Education: These labels are found on all Campbell's beans, gravies, and soups (both cans and individual servings) as well as on V-8 products, Vlasic pickles, Swanson frozen products, Prego spaghetti sauce, and all Pepperidge Farm products. Be sure to cut the dashed coupon part off each product label.

Tyson's A+ for Education: These labels can be found on all Tyson chicken products – both fresh and frozen. Each one is worth 24 cents for an area school.

Printer Ink Cartridges: Don't throw these away! Schools can recycle them for cash.

Small Plastic Lids: Save the ones that you take off soda and water bottles as well as gallon milk jugs and orange juice containers. Art teachers use these to mix small amounts of paint and to make collages.

Recent Magazines: When you are done reading these, do not recycle them. Instead, give them to an area nursing home. They like to have these available for their residents to read and enjoy. They also enjoy receiving books, cards, puzzles, and games.

Books (both hardback and paperback):

Donate these to the Damascus Public Library, and they will resell them at a low cost to raise funds to buy new books.

Used Comforters, Blankets, Sheets, Towels, and Pillows:

These items will be donated to area animal shelters and rescue centers to provide bedding for the animals.

Eyeglasses: Give these to the Damascus Lions Club, and they will repurpose them for needy members of our community.

You can save all of these items and send them to area services yourself, or you can bring them to church and give them to Tammy Monarch. She will be sure that they get to one of our many area schools and/or local nursing homes.

In addition, remember to bring your **aluminum foil, cans, and pie plates** as well as **other used aluminum** to our three big yellow bins at the hall. Andi Brickman takes all of this to the recycling center in Frederick several times a year to earn money for our church.

Thanks to all of you who already collect these things to help support our area schools, nursing homes, libraries, and, of course, ourselves!

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 PM Christian Fellowship Meeting	2	3
4 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	5	6	7 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch 7:00 PM Choir	8 7:30 PM Nominations Comm.	9	10 8:30 AM Road Clean-up
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee & Conversation	12 7:30 PM Admin. Council	13	14 7:00 PM Choir	15 7:00 PM Yard Sale Setup	16	17 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Fall Yard Sale
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	19 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 PM SPRC	20	21 Noon Ladies Lunch Out @ Music Cafe 7:00 PM Choir	22 7:30 PM Missions Committee	23 7:30 PM Cantata Dress Rehearsal	24 10:00 AM—12:00 PM Blessing of the Animals at PetValu 7:30 PM Fall Cantata “The Gospel Ship”
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship-Fall Cantata “The Gospel Ship”	26 7:30 PM Finance Committee	27 7:30 Board of Trustees	28 7:00 PM Choir	29	30	1 Fall Harvest Festival 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Blessing of the Animals



WHEN: Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Pet Valu, 9809 Main St., Damascus, MD 20872

WHO: All pets — furry ones, feathered ones, finned ones, scaly ones, small ones, sizable ones — but please bring them on a leash, crated, or otherwise contained.

WHY: Because the Lord God made them all!

SPONSORED BY

South Damascus Methodist Charge
Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, Woodfield
Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church, Laytonsville
Salem United Methodist Church, Cedar Grove
Asbury United Methodist Church, Germantown

For more information, wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org, 301-253-2894

We're Growing – Let's Stay Focused on Our Youth!

The pavilion, ball field, and playground are used by the youth in the community. Please support these businesses! All of their donations go to support the maintenance of these facilities.



Brian Lewis
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Get On Board...

THE GOSPEL SHIP



A Musical Comedy

Written and Arranged by Doug Gaither
Presented by the Wesley Grove Choir

In the spirit of past children's shows like Sesame Street, Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, PeeWee's Playhouse and others, The Gospel Ship will make you laugh and enjoy life as a kid again. Come on board and join us as we sail through our Christian lives destined for life eternal.

Presented on Saturday, September 24th at 7:30 PM and Sunday,
September 25th at 11:00 AM.





**Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: office@wesleygroveumc.org

As a congregation that covenants to walk together in Christ's love, believes that all persons are created equal before God, and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we welcome to our work and worship all regardless of race, gender, age, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic circumstance.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org



Fall Yard Sale

**Saturday,
September 17**

9 AM - 2 PM

To unsubscribe, please call the Wesley Grove UMC Office (301-253-2894) or email wgunmc@wesleygroveumc.org

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