

## From Pastor Karen...

My sisters and brothers in Christ:

*“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.”* Hebrews 4:15

Aren't those words from Paul in his letter to the Hebrews grand? Jesus understands, identifies, and commiserates with our limitations, failings, and difficulties. How wonderful is that? We who are imperfect, we who beat ourselves up over our inadequacies, we who are displeased with the size and shape of our bodies, we who never feel good enough or strong enough or healthy enough, we who make mistakes, mess up, and don't get "it" (whatever disparaging "it" it may be) right, have a God who gets it.

This Sunday is the last Sunday of Easter. It is also the day that we celebrate The Ascension of Our Lord. Artists often depict this occasion as one where a white-robed, robust, ruby-lipped Jesus is rising into the clouds, perfectly proportioned arms outstretched with manicured toenails dangling above awestruck disciples.

But a more accurate interpretation would be of Jesus, a survivor of trauma who bears its marks in his body: holes in his wrists and his feet, a spear wound in his belly and scars from the torture he endured. Jesus, ascending as a disabled God, embracing weakness and pain and disability.

Bodies mattered to Jesus. He healed sick bodies, he fed hungry bodies, he touched bodies considered to be ritually unclean. When he encountered bodies that had been pushed to the margins, he brought them back to the center. When Jesus was glorified, he was in a beat-up, bruised, battered body. Jesus' flesh reveals to us that flesh is *good*, and flesh is how the Kingdom of God comes. Your body, my body, our bodies are *good*, and no matter how weak, fragile, worn, or disabled, they are the means by which God's Kingdom comes.

Perhaps we would do well to consider our imperfect bodies, our frailties, our infirmities (not to mention the faults and deficiencies found in all humanity) as reflections of the very image of God. Can you imagine how different our lives would be if, rather than beating ourselves or others up for imperfections, defects, and disabilities, we would tell ourselves and others that our woundedness shows us how like Jesus we are?

Let us no longer pray only for our souls; let us love our bodies. Let us revel in the fact that God has chosen flesh — real, fragile, warm, human flesh — to reveal the character of God and accomplish reconciliation in the world.

In God's peace,  
*Pastor Karen*

## Lectionary Readings

### June 4, 2017: Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35  
 1 Corinthians 12:3-13  
 John 7:37-39

### June 11, 2017: 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 1:1-2:4  
 Psalm 8  
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
 Matthew 28:16-20

### June 18, 2017: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

#### Father's Day

Genesis 18:1-15  
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Romans 5:1-8  
 Matthew 9:35-10:8

### June 25, 2017: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21  
 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
 Romans 6:1-11  
 Matthew 10:24-39

## April 2017 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,354.91
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.68
Pastor Benefits	\$928.75
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$817.50
Payroll Taxes	\$90.07
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$1,045.13
Office Expenses	\$11.72
Trustees - Maintenance	\$3,437.05
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,974.81</b>

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$7,700.75
Sunday School Collections	\$52.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,815.11
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$2,100.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$268.68
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,289.40</b>

June Birthdays			
1	Paul Verner	15	Ruth Hobbs
4	Brianna Powell	17	Ralph Ketchum
6	Bob Burke	19	Mehrle Staley Jr.
	Jim Burns		Danny Wilson
7	Tim Lee	29	Bruce Walter
12	Scotty Verner	30	Adam Wilson
14	Sam Allman		



## Administrative Council Meeting May 15, 2017

*In attendance: Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Judy Hughes, Randy Falk, Ollie Gray, Becky Lewis, Andi Brickman, Lewis Burdette, Tammy Monarch*

**Devotional:** Bob Burke read the meditation for the month from the May Messenger.

**Good News Items:** Yard Sale went well in spite of reduced time from weather, Staley house ready for rental, spring cantata was wonderful, Easter services were well attended, Mother's Day breakfast was delicious and well attended, spring dinner had plenty of help and "thank you" for Missions' donation to the DHS post prom.

**Action Items:** Rick Monarch made a motion to accept the January 9, 2017, minutes as written and published, Ollie Gray seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

### Committee Reports

**Trustees - Andi Brickman:** A new refrigerator has been delivered to the parsonage. The parsonage flood repairs are in process and we have already received an insurance check for the claim.

**Christian Education - Tammy Monarch:** Sunday school attendance is down slightly; we need to find a way to engage the kids to attend worship. June 4 will be Education Sunday.

**Finance - Randy Falk:** Church has a new credit card that will be kept at the Church office. Tammy is creating an approval form that will have to be signed by a committee chair in order for any person to "check out"

the card to use; form to be submitted to Office Manager Jaime Crawford. Staley house options, costs, and decision to move forward were never reviewed or approved by the Administrative Council. The rental property CD's paid for more than \$25,000 of the repairs, funds for the balance of the repairs were borrowed from other church funds and will be paid back as rental income is generated.

**Christian Fellowship - Becky Lewis:** Yard Sale "Part Two" will be held on Saturday, June 17.

**SPRC - Ollie Gray:** No pastoral changes for the July 2017 to June 2018 year. The pastor rotation will remain the same. Pastor John is doing a wonderful job with hospital visits.

**Communications - Tammy & Becky for new chair Jaime Crawford:** The Wi-fi extender purchased from Verizon needs an underground cable to work, so Communications has decided to return it to Verizon. Josh Park will check into the correct wi-fi equipment. Website is still not changed; Josh is working on it.

**New Business:** We have a rental offer on the Staley house; the Council has some questions, and Rick will get more information. Trustees to check into having the septic pumped prior to rental. Committee chairs need to inform Bob any time they feel an additional Ad Council meeting needs to be scheduled to keep church business in order.

Devotions for next meeting will be Doug Gaither. Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned by Bob Burke at 9:33 p.m.

# FREE Vacation Bible School!



Date: July 10th - July 14th

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (dinner included)

Location: Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

23614 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovely crafted by God.



Register online at [www.wesleygroveumc.org](http://www.wesleygroveumc.org)



**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church  
2017 VBS Registration Form  
July 10 -14 ~~~ 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Male or Female (Circle one.)

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special friends attending VBS: \_\_\_\_\_

Evenings attending VBS: (Circle those that apply.) All or M Tu W Th F

Name of parent(s)/guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any information we should know about your child (medical issues, health conditions, fears, etc.).	
Allergies or other medical conditions: _____	
Information you should know: _____	
In case of emergency, contact: _____	
Phone: _____	Relationship to child: _____

For Church Use Only - Crew number or name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

In spite of the less-than-ideal weather, we had a very successful "Part One" Yard Sale on May 6. However, since we still have plenty of goods to sell, we're going to have "Part Two" on Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you missed your chance to have a table or clean out your closets in May, here's another one for you! Please call the Monarchs at 301-253-0044 if you would like to reserve a space, or you can donate goods to the church. Please bring donations by the Education Building on Thursday, June 15, when we'll do preliminary set up at 7 p.m. On the day of the event, we **especially need help setting up tables between 7 and 8 a.m.** Of course, we'll take help at other times as well, but extra hands during that time will lighten the load for those who plan to stay throughout the day. We could also use **extra help between 2 and 3 p.m. to tear down.** Please see Becky or Brian Lewis if you can help. And of course, plan to come out, have breakfast or lunch, look for treasures and buy something from the bake sale! Speaking of which, donations of baked goods will be appreciated, especially cookies or brownies packaged as individual desserts.

The next day, Sunday, June 18, the women of the church will gather at 8:30 a.m. to prepare Father's Day breakfast. We'll serve at 9:50 a.m. after a brief Sunday School lesson. **Everyone is welcome**, and please stay for service at 11 a.m., when we'll recognize all of the men in our congregation. Ladies, please let Becky know if you can help with breakfast.

Also on the June calendar, the Daytime Circle will hold its annual Summer Potluck Luncheon on Wednesday, June 7, at noon in the Education Building. Bring a dish to share; **all are welcome.** Ladies Lunch Out takes place on Wednesday, June 21, at noon, and

Cathy and Bob Burke will host Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, June 4, as part of our Education Sunday recognition. Speaking of Coffee and Conversation, a host family is needed for a special Vacation Bible School Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, July 16, in the Education Building.

## Communications Committee

*Jaime Crawford, Chair*

Beginning later this year, the Communications Committee will revive the "Spotlight On..." feature in each issue of the newsletter, giving us all the opportunity to learn more about the members of our church family. If you'd like to provide information to have your profile included in a future issue of *The Messenger*, please talk to Becky Lewis. Spotlights will begin in September, and the first two spots are already taken, so hurry and get your name on the list!

Communications continues to work on refining the robo call/email blast prayer request system, with a goal of reducing duplication between the two lists. If you are receiving both, and would like to receive only one or the other, please let Jaime know your preference. Please also let her know if you would like to opt out entirely, or if you're not receiving messages at all. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you those two vehicles serve to let members know about **urgent prayer needs** that occur between Sunday services. Please hold any non-urgent requests (for example, someone has a scheduled surgery coming up after the next Sunday's service) until Sunday. Also, if there is additional important information after the initial request (for example, someone was taken to the hospital, and now needs unscheduled surgery), please let Jaime know so she can keep everyone updated.

## Sunday School News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

We will continue our Sunday School classes through the last Sunday in June, the 25. After this day, we will stop for the summer and then resume Sunday School classes again in September when we all return back to school.

On Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate **Pentecost** (remember to wear red or orange) and **Education Sunday** by recognizing and honoring our Sunday School students and their teachers during our regular worship service. All of our students will receive their yearly attendance pins and certificates at this time. There will be Coffee and Conversation after church in honor of all of you. Please make plans now to join us on this very special day!

On June 18, which is **Father's Day**, we will have a shortened lesson and then join together in our annual fellowship breakfast with our fathers and the other men of the church. Make plans now to join us on this special morning. Please know that **everyone** in the church is welcome!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Sunday School teachers. These folks bring their special gifts to share weekly with all of our students, both young and old. So, from the bottom of my heart, please know how I appreciate and thank all of you. You make my job both rewarding and easier. I love all of you...

- Jaime Crawford
- Doug Gaither
- Mike Sherwood
- Carol Stone
- Sally Swearingen
- Alicia Wilson

## VBS News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just six weeks away! We will be holding it in the evenings from 5:30-8:30 during the week of Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14, in our Education Building. Please save this week and pass the word on to your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors. Once again this year, we will be offering a special class just for our preschoolers ages 3-5. You can register your children now on our church website, or ask either Jaime Crawford or Tammy Monarch for a registration form.

This year's quest to know God (and ourselves!) better will take place in "The Factory of Our Maker," which will be filled with conveyor belts, machines, robotic arms, and other gadgets. So, we are asking all of you to search in your basements, garages, attics, and closets for any items that we could use to decorate the hall to look like an old factory:

- Black cloths.
- Black tarps.
- Metal or plastic pipes and tubes.
- Ducts.
- Pulleys.
- Gears.
- Other machine parts.
- Anything resembling a conveyor belt.
- Metallic, shiny pieces of anything that could be made into other items.
- Aluminum foil.
- Anything else that you think we could possibly use!

Please let Tammy know if you have any of these items that we could borrow and use for the week. And, of course, we can always use any and all help. So, if you would like to volunteer for the whole week or even just a night or two, please let Tammy (301-253-0044) know. We'd love to have you, your creative ideas, your willingness to help, and of course, your love of kids!

## Wesley Grove Graduate Recognitions

**Alexander Mayer Allman** – On June 2, Alex, the son of Steve and Karen Allman, will graduate from Damascus High School. He plans to dual major in both biology and business at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, where he has received one of its academic scholarships for next fall. Alex, all of us here at Wesley Grove are excited for you and your future, and we wish you much success!

**Eugenia Ampiah-Addison** – Proud parents, John and Mercy Ampiah-Addison, will watch their daughter, Eugenia, graduate from Magruder High School in early June. While in high school, she participated in the Academy of Finance (AOF) as well as the National Honor Society. She plans to attend Howard University this fall, double majoring in both international business and criminal justice. Your family here at WG sends you off with much love and hope for a fabulous college experience in our nation's capital, Eugenia!

**John E. Ampiah Addison** – John, one of Eugenia's two older brothers, just graduated from the American University in Washington, D.C. in May. He earned his master's degree in business administration. While studying there, he was awarded the Celebration of Scholarship Medal. In the near future, John will begin working as a consultant for Deloitte. Please know how proud we all are of you, John. May your new career be exciting, challenging, and cause you to stretch and grow in all kinds of new ways. We wish you much luck and success in all you do!

**Courtney Taylor Bowie** – In early May, Courtney, the granddaughter of Tony Bowie, graduated magna cum laude from both the School of Law and the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. She received her law degree as well as an international master's degree in business administration. Since she was in the top 10 percent of her law class, Courtney is eligible to become a member of the "Order of the Coif." Congratulations and best wishes to you, Courtney!

**Kristen Nicole Fraley** – Kristen, the granddaughter of Lewis and Louise Burdette, received her education specialist degree from the University of Delaware on May 26. Kristen, may our Lord bless you with much enjoyment, fulfillment, and success in your career in the years to come!

**Douglas William Green** – Douglas, the son of Tina and Gary Green and the grandson of Betty Duvall, will graduate from South Carroll High School in early June. Over the past two years, as both a junior and a senior, he completed the high school collision repair course while working part-time at Wagner's Meats in Mt. Airy. He plans to continue to work there over the summer while hoping to attend trade school to further his education and knowledge of collision repair. Douglas, we all wish you the very, very best in all that you do!

**Chad William Kunkle** – On May 6, Chad received his bachelor of science in international affairs from the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy of Florida State University. In addition, he has earned an undergraduate certificate in emergency management and homeland security. While at FSU, Chad, the son of Clark and Barbara



Kunkle, became a member of Alpha Delta Phi, a literary and social fraternity. For the summer, he has accepted and begun a full-time telecommuting internship with the Hudson Institute's Center for Political-Military Analysis, where he will research and analyze a variety of foreign, defense, intelligence, homeland security, and counter-terrorism policy issues. Chad hopes to continue his internship in a part-time capacity this fall as he begins working on his master's degree in international affairs, also at FSU. Best of luck to you, Chad, in all that you do!

**Courtney Addison Lamb** – On May 22, Courtney, the daughter of Mary and Kevin Lamb and the niece of Carol and Charlie Stone, graduated from the University of Maryland in College Park with a bachelor of science in chemistry. In the near future, she will be searching for employment and considering the possibility of attending graduate school in pharmacology. All of us here wish you much luck and success in your future endeavors, Courtney!

**Christopher Patrick Lee** – Chris, the third son of Tammy and Rick Monarch, just graduated with his bachelor of science in fire protection engineering from the University of Maryland on Saturday, May 20. He graduated cum laude with additional academic honors and recognitions from his department. In early July, Chris will begin graduate school at the UMD. He hopes to finish this next degree in about 15 months while doing research and working in one of the fire investigation laboratories there on campus. Chris, your family here at WG is extremely proud of you and all of your accomplishments over the last four years!

**Timothy James Lee** – Tim, Tammy and Rick's youngest son, will graduate from Damascus High School on the morning of Friday, June 2. Damascus is one of the few Montgomery County high schools to still hold their graduation ceremonies on their home fields. In the fall, he plans to attend Salisbury University, where he has been granted two academic scholarships and is considering majoring in physical education, just like his father, Jon Lee. Tim, please know that your Wesley Grove church family wishes you all the best in your future!

**Luke William Van der Meulen** – On June 10, Luke will be graduating from Francis Scott Key High School in Carroll County, Maryland. Proud grandparents Lewis and Louise Burdette will be watching. He plans to attend Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, for the fall semester. All of our best wishes go with you to college, Luke!

**Ryan Allan Walter** – Ryan, who is the son of Bruce and Elizabeth Walter and the grandson of Allan and Mary Jane Walter, graduated with honors on May 12 from the College of Engineering at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His bachelor of science degree is in the field of computer engineering. In the near future, Ryan will be employed at the Patuxent River Naval Air Warfare Center in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Please know that your extended church family at WG sends you congratulations and best wishes, Ryan, for a wonderful future!



**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church**  
23640 Woodfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
301-253-2894 [www.wesleygroveumc.org](http://www.wesleygroveumc.org)

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

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

*Call 301-253-0044 to reserve your space.*



**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

# June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Education Sunday</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion) Noon Coffee & Conversation	5	6	7 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Luncheon 7:00 PM Choir	8	9	10
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	12	13	14 7:00 PM Choir	15 7:00 PM Yard Sale Set-up	16 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	17 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Yard Sale
18 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:30 AM Father's Day Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship	19	20 7:30 PM Administrative Council	21 Noon Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	26 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	27 7:30 PM Finance Committee	28 7:00 PM Bell Choir	29	30	

 **Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church**  
Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [office@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto: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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)



*New Date!*

**Saturday, June 17**  
**9 a.m. — 2 p.m.**

**Breakfast and Lunch For Sale**

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

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