

Wesley Grove
November 2017

Messenger

From Pastor Karen...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am not an artist. However, one of my favorite seminary courses was “Religion and Art,” which offered an overview of Christian art throughout the ages. One of our assignments was to create an art project that revealed something about ourselves, and for weeks, I labored over my primitive artistic endeavor. When it came time for us to share our creations, I was shocked when one of my classmates came into class with nothing more than a piece of construction paper with torn strips of construction paper glued on top of it. I have to admit that I was a bit annoyed at his lack of effort until he began to share his story. He told us of childhood abuse that “tore him to shreds” and the grace of God that was slowly “piecing him back together again.”

In Christ, God has chosen each of us, set us apart, named us, and claimed us to be His own children forever. How often do we revel in that element of our identities? Life, for most of us, is just so crazy busy that it’s really hard to find the time to acknowledge, let alone reflect deeply on, the fact that God so loves us that He was willing to send His own beloved child for us. Furthermore, day in and day out, we don’t feel like beloved children, or don’t believe that we should be, could be, or really are.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are!”, 1 John 3:1a reminds us. Yes, God loves us not because of what we’ve done or what we may do, but just because of who we are and, even more, because of who He is. God doesn’t love the person we might be, the person we’ve promised to be, or the person we’re trying to be. God loves us – the **real** us: warts, scars, and all.

But God is not done with us: “Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: When he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.” (3:2). I love the idea that there is something about our true identity that is somewhat mysterious, even hidden. It’s hidden from the world, which cannot see beyond our accomplishments for our failures, our wealth or poverty, our abilities or disabilities, our physical appearance or limitations.

Our true identity is also something of a mystery to us. Therefore, we have no idea what God might do with us or through us. We only know that, in the end, all that we are and do will be caught into Christ and somehow the totality of who we are will look like him. God is not done with us. God has something in store for us — big or little, hard or easy. God is at work to love the world through the unique person He has created each of us to be. I invite you to take some time to celebrate the fact that you are God’s beloved child and God is using you to change the world!

Peace,

Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

November 5, 2017: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

November 12, 2017: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 21:33-46

November 19, 2017: 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 26, 2017: 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

September 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	\$1,192.50
Payroll Taxes	\$76.31
Grass Cutting	\$1,215.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$734.75
Office Expenses	\$138.00
Trustees - Maintenance	\$2,383.81
Total Expenses	\$10,313.71

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$4,618.02
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,869.56
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$1,600.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$268.68
Total Income	\$9,709.12

November Birthdays

2 David Wilson	13 Mary Knox
6 John Briggs	Becky Lewis
11 Eugene Swearingen	23 Brian Hottinger
12 Lois Kemp	28 Kelsey Kunkle



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 22
at 7:30 p.m.

at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church,
 Laytonsville

Please join the churches of Laytonsville and the South Damascus Charge as we give thanks to God for our many blessings.

Save the Date

Wesley Grove Christmas Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 6

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Mt. Airy Tavern

Choice of Entrees:

Peruvian Chicken

Chargrilled half chicken with asparagus and rice

St. Louis Style BBQ Pork Ribs

Half or Full, Slaw and Tavern Fries

Sesame Ginger Salmon

Red skinned smashed potatoes with green beans with ginger glaze with sesame seeds

Two Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes

Handpicked jumbo crabmeat, red skinned smashed potatoes and sweet corn relish

14 oz Ribeye

Roasted fingerling potatoes and tomato—
corn salsa

These entrees are from their dinner menu as the Tavern does not have a banquet menu. Since items like beverages and salad are a la carte and we need to figure out the tax and tip, we will have pricing information later in October.

youth retreat
ROCK
ROCK

**January 26-
28, 2018**

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

This year, our youth will be attending "ROCK," a powerful and fun-filled weekend in Ocean City, Md. The event allows youth and adults to take a step back from their busy lives and learn about the amazing love of Jesus Christ. It is an awesome experience for folks to more fully connect with God and their friends while listening to great bands and speakers. Attendees will leave ROCK renewed and ready to spread the word about God's great love for us.

If you are a youth in grades 6 through 12 and would like to attend, please email wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org and keep looking for more information about this activity.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Mission's donated \$500 to UMCOR to help all of the latest hurricane and flood relief victims in the United States.

The Holidays are right around the corner. We will be donating non-perishable food to Faith Connections for the Community Thanksgiving dinner. If you are interested in volunteering to serve at the dinner on Thanksgiving Day see Jackie Hottinger and she can give you the volunteer information.

We have also signed up to sponsor Christmas dinner and gifts to four small to medium size local families again this year. More information to follow.

Damascus Help food pantry can use food donations. Peanut butter, jelly and cereals are in short supply. All food donations are welcome.

The Gift Goes On...

As you travel **On the Road** of Life,
Remember that **Jesus Changed Everything**
The Day He Wore My Crown;
For What Earthly Reason, we do not fully
comprehend.

But I Know **My Redeemer Lives,**
He's **Alive, Alive!**
And he will **Rise Again**
Because **People Need the Lord.**
The Gift Goes On...

We learned about heavenly beings in **Angelicon,**
And it was **Amazing** to see how our lives touch others
In **A Carol Christmas,**
We watched someone discover **Who is This Jesus?**
And we rode on **The Gospel Ship,**
Attended **A Sunday School Reunion,**
And rejoiced in **Every Moment a Song.**
The Gift Goes On...

Soon Advent will be upon us;
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,
The **Season of Praise.**
We'll **Turn the Light On**
When **It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like**
Christmas,
As we once again hear the story of **The First Noel.**
The Gift Goes On...

While you begin a new chapter in your life,
I'll Be Home For Christmas at Wesley Grove.
You have led and **Inspired** us
To spread the love of God to nursing homes,
As well as the public, while riding a float in parades.
You leave us feeling that it's **Forever Christmas,**
And you've taught us to share our ministry of music.
We'll continue our spiritual journey with you in our
hearts.
Because **The Gift Goes On...**

We love you and will miss you!
Sentiment prepared by Sue Ann Ketchum
On behalf of your Wesley Grove Church Choir

Doug and Scott's New Address:
102 Babbling Brooke Estates
Morgantown, WV 26508

Music Director

We are saddened by the departure of our music director, Doug Gaither, and his husband, Scott Iles, as God calls them to a new chapter in their lives in West Virginia. We will miss them, but wish them well on their journey. We are now looking to hire a music director. If you know a qualified individual who might be interested, please call the church office for a job description.



Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Make your list, check it twice, and be sure to start it off with "Begin shopping for the season at the Holly Days Crafts Bazaar." Our annual event takes place on Saturday, November 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and once again the Education Building will be packed with local crafters ready and waiting to help you check lots of items off that list. Take a lunch break and enjoy the homemade soups and sandwiches from the kitchen, buy some baked goods for Thanksgiving dinner, and stop by the Wesley Grove Holiday Shop to complete your visit. We'll be setting up on the evening of Thursday, November 16, at 7 p.m., and on Friday, November 17, at 11 a.m. If you can help at either of those times, or during the event, please see Tammy Monarch or Becky Lewis. Donations of baked goods are appreciated as well.

If you just can't make it on Saturday, the Holiday Shop will be open after the worship service on Sunday, when the Evening Circle will provide an extended Coffee and Conversation/light lunch in the Education Building. Items will also remain on sale throughout the holiday season.

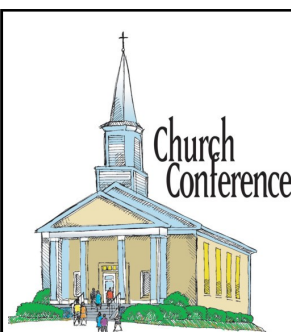
Preparations for the bazaar will take up most of the Evening Circle and Christian Fellowship members' time during November, but we will slip in the Daytime Circle Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, November 1, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building; United Methodist Men's breakfast at Smoke Hill Barbecue at 8 a.m. on Friday, November 10 (Veterans' Day); and Ladies Lunch Out on Wednesday, November 15, at noon. And plan now for a busy December, with our Live Nativity, Christmas Caroling and Dinner, and more!



Several months ago, the Communications Committee announced a plan to revive the "Spotlight" feature in the newsletter each month. While we've heard that people enjoyed reading our first two articles, we're having a hard time finding individuals to put **in** the Spotlight! It's really simple to do...we have a template to get you started, and your submission will get some loving editorial care before it's published. Please contact Jaime in the church office to sign up for your turn in the Spotlight!



Our South Damascus Charge Missionaries with Bishop Awotwi Pratt in Ghana. We look forward to hearing about this wonderful trip from Pastor John.



Church Conference
South Damascus Charge

Saturday,
November 4, 2017
at 9:00 a.m.
at Wesley Grove



Prayer
and Healing
Service

Lord, make me an instrument
of Thy peace.

Prayer and Healing Service

November 18, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church
Corner of Laytonsville Road
and Hipsley Mill Road
in Etchison

In this time of great sorrow, pain, and suffering,
please join us in a prayer service for the healing
of individuals, groups of people,
and all of God's children.

Questions:

Pastor John Ampiah Addison, Associate Pastor
(240) 396-7242
addisco5@yahoo.com

**Bishop Easterling will meet with Central
Maryland District Clergy & Laity on
Monday, December 11, 2017**

The Clergy Session will take place from
2 - 4 p.m.

The Laity Session will take place from
6 - 8 p.m.

The location is to be determined. We will
update you as soon as the location has been
set. Please put this date on your calendars!
Meals will not be provided. We will have
light snacks and beverages.

Come with questions, insights, ideas, and more!

Christian Education News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

Since we began Sunday School this fall, we have been learning about Heaven using books written by Pastor Randy Alcorn. We are finding answers to our many questions in both the Old and New Testaments. Some of these questions include "What will Heaven look like? Will we have these same bodies in Heaven? Will we be old or young or somewhere in between? Will we remember the things we do and know now? Will we work, play, eat, and sleep in Heaven? Will we still live with our same families? Will there be pets in Heaven?" and many, many more.

As always, feel free to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Education Building, and please don't worry if you haven't read the book beforehand, you can still join in on our interesting, and often lively, discussions!

We are excited to announce that we are planning to take both youth and adults to "ROCK," a Christian weekend retreat in Ocean City, Md., this January. This three-day event is open to all kids in sixth grade and older. The dates are Friday, January 26 through Sunday, January 28. We need to order tickets now, so please check your calendars and then let Pastor Karen, Jaime Crawford, or Tammy Monarch know if you definitely will be attending. We would love to take a group of about 20 people from Wesley Grove. More details about driving, lodging, meals, etc. will be available throughout the months of November and December as we know for sure who will be going.


And finally, a request to all of our Sunday School families, please let Tammy know now if your family will or will not be here on Christmas Eve to help us present the earlier family worship service. The Christmas Season will be here before we know it!



Holly Days
Craft Bazaar and Luncheon
Saturday, November 18th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Featuring Holiday Crafts,
Homemade Soups, Sandwiches,
and Bake Table

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23614 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894
www.wesleygroveumc.org





Come join us for cookies, milk
and cocoa, and an opportunity
to meet the real Santa!

Saturday, December 2
Special Needs 2 - 3:30 pm
Community 3:30 - 5 pm

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
23614 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894 www.wesleygroveumc.org

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir	2 10:00 AM Bible Study @ Mt. Tabor	3	4 9:00-11:00 AM Church Conference @ WG
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion) <i>All Saints' Sunday</i>	6	7 9:00 AM Charge Bible Study @ Salem 6:45 PM Lions Club	8 7:00 PM Choir	9 10:00 AM Bible Study @ Mt. Tabor	10 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast	11
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	13 7:30 PM Admin. Council	14 9:00 AM Charge Bible Study @ Salem	15 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	16 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Bible Study @ Mt. Tabor 7:00 PM Bazaar Setup	17 11:00 AM Bazaar Setup	18 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Bazaar 7:00 PM Prayer & Healing Service @ Mt. Tabor
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON "Extended" Coffee & Conversation and Holiday Shop in the Education Building	20 7:00pm SPRC @ Mt. Tabor	21 9:00 AM Charge Bible Study @ Salem 6:45 PM Lions Club	22 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Thanksgiving Service at St. Bartholomew's	23 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	24 Office Closed	9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Holiday Shop open	27 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	28 9:00 AM Charge Bible Study @ Salem 7:30 PM Finance Committee	29 7:00 PM Choir	30 10:00 AM Bible Study @ Mt. Tabor		

 **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



***Daylight Savings
Time Ends at 2 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 5***

*Don't forget to turn back your
clocks one hour!*

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

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