

Wesley Grove  
September 2017

# Messenger

## From Pastor Karen...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

For the past year, I have had the pleasure of getting to know one of the youngest children in our congregation, Abby Crawford. A year ago, I would arrive at work, grab Abby out of the pack-and-play, place her in my lap, and begin our naptime ritual of my singing and rocking her (and sometimes me) to sleep. It wasn't long before Abby began to trust me and greet me with arms raised so that we could spend "lap time" together.

There is a documentary about an effective education project for troubled teenagers called "Omega Project." It highlights a program that provides tutors and mentors for young men and women who have grown up with little or no parental guidance. In the film, an elderly teacher comments that, several times a week, he tries to give each of the teenagers "lap time." During "lap time," the gentleman listens to the teens talk about their lives — their struggles and their victories — and after careful consideration, he provides wise counsel for overcoming the obstacles that are ever-present in their lives.

Of course, the teacher was using a figure of speech when he spoke of "lap time." A special moment of undivided attention is what this man offers. But, as a mother, I know the benefits of another kind of "lap time." Those treasured moments of snuggling or reading provide a time to reconnect after a hectic day, as well as an unique opportunity for communication between souls.

The time the teacher spends in one-on-one conversation with teenagers, or the time we spend listening to each other, is no less valuable than the time I have spent with Abby. Whether with adults or children, "lap time" is a time to get at the heart of the matter, to offer love in the midst of heartache and compassion to a weary soul. What a different world this would be if we intentionally gave one another "lap time" — a special moment of undivided attention, a time for soul sharing. Jesus modeled this type of caring over and over again. The woman beside the well, the fishermen, the tax collectors, the woman who touched the hem of his garment were all blessed by a little "lap time" with Jesus.

We could all benefit from a little bit of "lap time" to comfort and to be comforted, to love and to be loved, to trust and to be trusted. As fall approaches and school days begin, don't forget to find time in the midst of all of the busy-ness to be a blessing to others as you share your eyes, your ears, and your heart with others.

Peace,

*Pastor Karen*

## Lectionary Readings

### September 3, 2017: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

### September 10, 2017: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149 or Psalm 148

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:21-35

### September 17, 2017: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

### September 24, 2017: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

## July 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	\$1,095.00
Payroll Taxes	\$87.60
Grass Cutting	\$540.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$183.80
Office Expenses	\$250.00
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,555.61
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,285.35</b>

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$6,423.85
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,869.56
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$268.68
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9,914.95</b>

### September Birthdays

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

## Montgomery County Farm Park

Remember to save Saturday, October 7, 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. Contact Rick Monarch at 301-253-0044 to volunteer or if you would like more information.

## Administrative Council Meeting June 20, 2017

*In attendance: Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Judy Hughes, Randy Falk, Becky Lewis, Andi Brickman, Lewis Burdette, Tammy Monarch, Doug Gaither, Pastor Karen Davis.*

**Devotional:** Randy Falk read from the Daily Devotional.

**Good News Items:** The two yard sales together netted about \$2,000, Father's Day breakfast was good, singing at Pleasant View Nursing Home was well received, we had plenty of helpers at the soup kitchen, and we have a tenant in the "Staley House."

**Action Items:** Becky Lewis made a motion to accept the May 15, 2017 minutes as written and published, Tammy Monarch seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

### Committee Reports

**Trustees - Andi Brickman:** Rental property and parsonage are in good shape.

**Christian Education - Tammy Monarch:** VBS plans progressing and we expect about 50 children.

**Finance - Randy Falk:** Finance Committee would like an update on taxes paid and a breakdown of final numbers for the "Staley House" renovations. We would also like to explore the possibility of conducting an outside audit.

**Christian Fellowship - Becky Lewis:** Planning another visit to the nursing homes to sing on August 27.

**Missions- Jackie Hottinger:** We will be collecting school supplies for the area backpack program through the middle of August. Faith Connections has 250 students on their wish list. We also need volunteers to prepare "brown bag" lunches/dinner at Grace UMC in August.

**Worship - Doug Gaither:** On July 7, we will be singing in the Celebrate Damascus parade. The fall cantata, "On the Road," will be on October 8. The choir will start singing for the fall season at the charge picnic on September 10.

**Old Business:** Pastor Karen will get with Josh Park on a date for the Wi-Fi extender and website updates to be completed. The lease on the rental property has been signed by HOC and the tenants. Pastor Karen will send a copy of the lease to the conference.

**New Business:** Pastor Karen will check the copier lease to see what the cost would be for color copies. Finance will receive a copy of the Montgomery County tax letter for the Staley property. Pastor Karen will check the discipline on audit guidelines. Trustees will meet and determine a recommendation of a reasonable amount of money that can be spent without Administrative Council approval. Pastor Karen will check the schedule of leadership training available for committee chairs.

Devotions for next meeting will be Doug Gaither.

Next meeting will be Monday, September 11, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned by Bob Burke at 9:50 p.m.



# Fall Yard Sale & Fundraising Cookout

**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church**

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

**Saturday, September 16, 2017  
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.***

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*


Did you enjoy the lazy days of summer? Did you get all rested up and ready for a busy fall? Well, your church family is going to take care of the "busy" part, starting with the Annual Charge Picnic on Sunday, September 10. We'll start things off with an outdoor worship service at 11 a.m., immediately followed by Happy Hour snacks and the Annual Walk Against Hunger. Lace up your sneakers and join our Sunday School children walking laps around the building, or sponsor a walker, have a snack and cheer them on as they raise funds for Damascus Help. The food pantry is especially bare right at the moment, so all your contributions will be most welcome. We'll then move on to share a potluck fellowship lunch at approximately 1 p.m.; the Christian Fellowship Committee will provide drinks, paper goods and a main course meat. Plan to stay and enjoy an afternoon of bingo, horseshoes, and more, finishing up with dessert at approximately 3:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it!

And keep on marking those calendars for the following weekend, when we'll hold our Fall Yard Sale fundraiser on Saturday, September 16. Please let Rick or Tammy Monarch know if you would like to reserve a space for \$15, or we'll accept donations of gently used items for sale at the church booth through 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13. (For outside vendors, the fee will be \$15 for a space, \$20 to use a church table in that space.) If you can help set up tables between 7 and 7:30 a.m., help take down tables after 2 p.m., or help with food or "treasure" sales during the day, please see Brian or Becky Lewis. Bake sale donations will be appreciated; cookies or

brownies packaged for individual desserts are preferred.

We'll wrap up September with a third major event on Saturday, September 30, when we gather at PetValu for our Annual Blessing of the Animals from 3 to 5 p.m. Flyers for both the Yard Sale and Blessing of the Animals can be picked up in the Greeting Room; please take a few to post (vet offices and pet stores are great locations for Blessing of the Animals posters.)

A host family is needed for Coffee and Conversation on September 17; please let Becky know if you can help. Other fellowship events on the September calendar are Daytime Circle Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, September 6, at 12:30 p.m. at the Education Building and Ladies Lunch Out on Wednesday, September 20, at noon at the Greene Turtle in Mt. Airy. And the Christian Fellowship Committee will meet on Saturday, September 9, at 10 a.m. to set up for the picnic and briefly discuss upcoming fall events.



**Church Conference**  
South Damascus Charge

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

**Everyone is encouraged to attend!!**

Please have all reports into the office by  
Friday, October 6.



Dear Wesley Grove Family,

Thank you for your concern, kind deeds, faithful visits, and prayers during my illness and ongoing recovery. Every prayer, card, call, meal, etc. was deeply appreciated. May God bless you all for praying and caring, which surely helped bring healing.

In Christian Love,

Allan Walter (Mary Jane too)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Karen and everyone at Wesley Grove who participated in Pat's Celebration of Life. It was such a wonderful tribute to her. A special thanks, also, to the members of Wesley Grove who prepared and served such a delicious lunch following the service. Pat would have loved it all! Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts,

- Joe Mallon & Family

Thanks to our church family for the cards, notes, calls, and most of all, prayers concerning Don's health. We are on the road to better days.

Sincerely,

Don and Suzie Diddle

## Christian Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

Welcome back! We will return to our regular Sunday School schedule beginning on Sunday, September 10, 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 significance and impact of various historical figures, whose stories are told in the Old Testament. 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 the 10 - 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 non-profit organizations to which you would like to donate funds. Remember to make Wesley Grove one of your choices!

Here is Giant's website: [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com).

Here is Safeway's website: [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)

G to Harris Teeter's Together in Education (TIE) webpage and link your Harris Teeter VIC card to a particular school, like Damascus HS (#2729).

## Don't Throw That Away!

Remember to save items for our area schools, libraries, and nursing homes. All of our local facilities appreciate your help!

### **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!

**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 of 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. 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 metals** 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!



**Wesley Grove Christmas Luncheon**

**Date: Wednesday, December 6**

**Time: 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Mt. Airy Tavern**

**More information will be in the  
October Messenger**



## In the Spotlight

### Cathy Burke



Catherine A. Burke  
3133 Will-Mil Terrace  
Monrovia, MD 21770

I live with my husband of 26 years, Bob, who is also a member of this church, and one cat named Mia.

I grew up in Tampa, Florida, where I attended Twin Lakes Elementary School, Oak Grove Junior High School, and Chamberlain High School.

Although I have taken many college courses, I did not graduate from college. I mainly attended Northern Virginia Community College, and during my career, I have taken many college-accredited insurance courses. I continue to take continuing education annually for my career.

I had five siblings, of whom three are still alive. I have a sister in Arkansas, and a brother and sister in Tampa. I grew up in Tampa, where the sun was always shining and it was warm. The beach was 20 minutes away. We were happy children with much love in our home. My mom was basically happy and made the best out of nothing. I am so thankful

for my upbringing, which included few material things. Our happiness was because we had the necessities and a whole lot of love... Hugs and kisses were given frequently and freely.

Since 1997, I have attended Wesley Grove. Tony Bowie is the wonderful Christian who brought us to this church. He showed me his faith for years while we rode the MARC train together before I came to the church. What he speaks, he lives. Our Wesley Grove church family has always treated us like family and we are so thankful for them all. I was baptized as a young child in the Baptist church, and when Bob and I joined Wesley Grove, we were transferred by letter from Neelsville Presbyterian where we were married and became members in 1991.

I have worked for The Union Labor Life Insurance Company since October 1985: 32 years this October. We were located in Washington, D.C. for 20 years, and I have been in Silver Spring for the past 12 years. I am a Director of Operations for Supplemental Life and Health Insurance. They have been a good company for our family. I am thankful for the career I have had with them. When I graduated from high school, I began working right away for an insurance company and then years later, went back to school at night, changed careers, and returned to insurance.

I love my family and now with the grandchildren, they are the icing on the cake. They are the most wonderful little people and they are a huge piece of my heart. I am blessed with a beautiful home and a wonderful husband. We both love working around our home and in our yard. We also both enjoy riding motorcycles and have been doing that for about 20 years. I also love to travel, anywhere, anytime, I am ready to go!



# Blessing of the Animals



**WHEN:** Saturday, September 30, 3 p.m.\*

**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**

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

For more information, [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org), 301-253-2894

\*Weather permitting

# CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP ACADEMY – FALL 2017

@ THE BWC MISSION CENTER

**11711 E Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759**

**Saturday, September 30, 2017 - Sunday, October 1, 2017**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**3:00 PM - 5:30 PM**



Join us September 30th and October 1st at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center for the CM District's Lay Servant Ministries academy. The duration of each Lay Servant Ministries course is 10 hours. Those registering for a credit-based course must attend for the full 10-hours to receive credit for certification or recertification. As of 2017, Lay Servants must have completed the Basic LSM Course and at least one Advanced LSM Course within the last three years prior to 2017 Church Conference voting. If you have questions about your certification, please contact your District Lay Servant Ministries Director(s).

To Register: <http://tiny.cc/CMDiscipleshipAcademy>

## TEN DAY TRIP TO GHANA

Rev. John Ampiah-Addison will be hosting a ten day mission trip to his home in Ghana, October 23rd through November 2nd, 2017. This trip is designed to form connections between the United Methodist Church in Ghana and create opportunities for a mission partnership with the Countryside Orphanage. Highlights of the trip will include visits with representatives from the American Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Embassy, tours of national parks, a stay at a local resort, stops at Ashanti craft villages, and time to meet and interact with residents and caretakers of the Countryside Orphanage. The cost of the trip will be determined by the number of people who attend and is estimated between \$2,500 and \$3,000. If you are interested in joining us or would like further information, please contact John at [addisco5@yahoo.com](mailto:addisco5@yahoo.com).

## The Season of Creation

During the month of September, we will be observing "The Season of Creation" during our Sunday morning worship. This ecumenical observance was begun by a Lutheran pastor in Australia in 2000 and expanded and spread worldwide. This "season" leads up to the blessing of the animals on September 30.

For 2017, we will follow the readings in Exodus which are replete with images from creation. We will also be singing verses from "All Creatures of Our God and King" (UMH 62) which is based on writings from St. Francis. Our series will culminate on World Communion Sunday (October 1).

### **September 3 — FIRE!**

*Exodus 3:1-15*

All Creatures of Our God and King, st. 3

### **September 10 — DEATH**

*Exodus 12:1-14*

All Creatures of Our God and King, st. 6

### **September 17 — WIND, SKY AND SEA**

*Exodus 14:19-31*

All Creatures of Our God and King, st. 2-3

### **September 24 — FOOD**

*Exodus 16:2-15*

All Creatures of Our God and King, st. 4

# On the Road

*A Musical Comedy*

**Join Slick and Slack as they journey  
on the road of life.**

This original script written by Scott Iles and Doug Gaither is accompanied by 9 favorite songs performed by the choir over the past 9 years.

Come join us on our Highway to Heaven as we laugh, cry and enjoy the jokes and uplifting music.

**Presented Sunday, October 8, 2017  
11:00am and 7:30pm**

**PRESENTED BY: WESLEY GROVE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
23640 WOODFIELD ROAD  
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20882  
[www.wesleygroveumc.org](http://www.wesleygroveumc.org)**

## Cemetery News

In loving memory of her dear sister. Sharon Ann (Watkins) Hawkins, Deborah (Watkins) Pegnato has made a donation of white fencing to replace the remaining section of chain link fence around the Wesley Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery. This was the last section of chain link fence to be replaced (north side); the rest is all PVC white fence.



The cemetery looks better now than it ever has. Finally we have grass growing in all the bare spots. Because of the new sign, all the white fence, and our lawn man, the Cemetery Committee is proud of its look.

If anyone wishes to purchase a burial site, please contact one of the committee members: Rick Monarch, Bob Burke, Brian Lewis, or Jim Kemp.



Join us!

## Outdoor Worship and Picnic

**Sunday, September 10  
at 11:00 a.m.**

*Bring a chair and a dish to share!*

Also, Blessing of the Backpacks and Walk Against Hunger

# September 2017

Pastor Karen will be on vacation from September 16—22. Contact Pastor John if you need anything during this time.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir	7	8	9 10:00 AM Christian Fellowship Committee Meeting <i>Damascus Community Fair</i>
10 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Outdoor Worship and Picnic <i>Damascus Community Fair</i>	11 7:30 PM Administrative Council	12 9:00am Charge Bible Study @ Salem	13 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Yard Sale Setup	14 10:00 am Bible Study @Mt. Tabor 7:30pm Lay Leadership	15 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 4-8pm Roast Beef & Shrimp Dinner @ Mt. Tabor	16 8AM—2PM Yard Sale 9am Men's Brayer Breakfast @ Sharp Street UMC
17 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Coffee & Conversation	18	19 9:00am Charge Bible Study @ Salem 7:30pm Communications	20 Noon Ladies Lunch Out @ Green Turtle -Mt. Airy 7:00 PM Choir	21 10:00 am Bible Study @Mt. Tabor	22	23
24 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	25 7:30 PM Board of Trustees 7:30 PM SPRC	26 9:00am Charge Bible Study @ Salem 7:30 PM Finance Committee	27 7:00 PM Choir	28 10:00 am Bible Study @Mt. Tabor	29	30 3:00 PM Blessing of the Animals @ PetValu



**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)

**Church Yard  
Sale**

**Fall Yard Sale**

**Saturday,  
September 16**

**9 AM - 2 PM**

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church  
23640 Woodfield Road  
GaitHERsburg, MD 20882