

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, February 3
 Daytime Circle
 Brown Bag Lunch 12:30 PM
 Choir 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 4
 Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM

Tuesday, February 9
 Shrove Tuesday
 Pancake Dinner 5:00-7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 10
 Joint Ash Wednesday
 Service @ Salem 7:30 PM

Thursday, February 11
 Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM

Sunday, February 14
 Coffee & Conversation NOON

Monday, February 15
 UMM Fellowship Breakfast
 @ TBD 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 17
 Ladies Lunch Out NOON
 Choir 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 18
 Newsletter Deadline NOON
 Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 20
 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM

Sunday, February 21
 Soup Sunday with
 movie following NOON

Monday, February 22
 Finance 7:30 PM

Tuesday, February 23
 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 24
 Choir 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 25
 Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM

Monday, February 29
 Soup Kitchen 1:00 PM

Pastor John's Pulpit

Stay Focused!

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part...." Luke 10:41-42

There are many things to be done in life, but not all of them are important. Staying focused is therefore very essential if we are to achieve or fulfill our dreams. We have to develop the ability to differentiate between the needful or essential and that which places a demand on our time. This is important because we have only 24 hours in a day, 8 of which are (or should be!) spent sleeping. We therefore need to use the little time available to do the things that will make a positive impact on our lives and that of others.

Like Martha, many of us are worried about too many things. We are engaged in family matters; we have to contend with the expectations of society; and concerns about our children, finances, and health increase continually. Each of these things, literally, yells for our rapt attention. Being focused means giving energy and life to your priorities and avoiding distractions.

Martha was engrossed in serving and expected Mary to stop everything else to join her. She lost sight of the fact that Jesus had travelled a great distance just to spend time mentoring and teaching them. Serving is not wrong, but Jesus had to teach Martha about the priority of the moment. Every moment in our lives presents an opportunity to do something important, and that must engage our total attention.

February Birthdays

1	Barbara Kunkle	22	Andi Brickman
9	Namela Miller		Shelby Kepner
13	Daniel Hottinger		Andre Mirani
14	Joel Ketchum	23	Stephen Lewis
17	Lance Cooper		

Lectionary Readings

February 7, 2016

Transfiguration Sunday

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 10, 2016

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 14, 2016

1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 21, 2016

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

February 28, 2016

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

December Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,360.08
Pastor Salary	\$1,729.58
Pastor Benefits	\$880.32
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$827.75
Church Secretary	\$712.50
Payroll Taxes	\$57.38
Grass Cutting and Snow Removal	\$700.00
Custodian	\$750.00
Programs	\$1,620.40
Office Expenses	\$379.17
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,576.67
Total Expenses	\$10,593.85

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$12,116.13
Sunday School Collections	\$79.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,762.24
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,313.46
Grocery eScrips	\$0.00
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$0.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$0.00
Total Income	\$15,270.83

WG Scholarship News

Jim Kemp, Committee Chair

Our Memorial and Scholarship Committee is proud to once again announce that it is seeking students to apply for one or both of our **Wesley Grove Church scholarships**. Candidates must be active and involved members of this church who currently have GPAs of at least 2.5 and who are planning to attend college full- or part-time this coming fall. If you are interested in finding out more information or receiving an application, please contact Tammy Monarch at (301) 253-0044. The application deadline is April 30.

LENT BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Thursdays @ 7:30pm beginning February 11

John, The Gospel of Light and Life

by Adam Hamilton

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." You'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.

(Pastor John's Pulpit. from page 1)

Jesus reminded Martha that only one thing was important. Similarly, we must come to that point where we, like Paul in Philippians 3:13, can say that "this one thing I do." That way, all our resources and effort are concentrated on that main goal. Any other achievement becomes a bonus. It is my prayer that the Lord will guide us to the path he has chosen for us, so that we will not turn to the left or right, but stay focused.

Pastor John Ampiah-Addison

VBS News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just six months away: therefore, it's time to start planning and preparing for VBS right now. Stay tuned for the exact dates, which will be published in next month's newsletter.

This year's quest to know God (and ourselves!) better will take place in a deep, dark cave. So, we are asking all of you to go spelunking in your basements, garages, attics, and closets to look for items that we could use to decorate the hall to look like a series of caverns: black cloth, black tarps, lanterns, black lights, ropes, pickaxes, stuffed bats, glow-in-the-dark items, or anything that could help us to create rock formations, dripping stalactites, or growing stalagmites (cardboard or plastic cones or cylinders, candle wax to melt, etc.). Please let Tammy Monarch know if you have any items that we could use.

As always, we can use any and all help. If you would like to volunteer to help plan the week, decorate the hall, teach lessons, serve dinner, etc., please let Tammy know by calling her at (301) 253-0044. We'd love to have you, your creative ideas, your willingness to help, and of course, your love of kids!

Don't Throw That Away!

In addition to recycling cans, bottles, jars, and paper, remember that very little should be going in your trash these days. There are many items that area schools, nursing homes, animal shelters, and we here at Wesley Grove collect and either use or turn in for monetary credit. Here is a list of most of those things...

Aluminum Cans, Foil, and Pie Plates, General Mills Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Labels for Education, Tyson's A+ Labels for Education, Coca-Cola Product Bottle Caps, Small Toiletry Bottles (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.) from hotels, Empty Printer Ink Cartridges, Small Plastic Lids and Caps, Magazines, Paperback Novels, Board Games, Card Games, Old Eyeglass Lenses and Frames, Old Blankets, Sheets, Towels, Pillows, and Comforters

You can save all of these items and send them to area schools, shelters, and group homes yourself, or you can just bring them to church and give them to Tammy Monarch. She will be sure that they get to the proper locations within our community.

Remember that our **Spring Community Yard Sale** is coming up on Saturday, May 7th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wesley Grove will gladly accept all gently used household items, sporting goods, toys, books, and furniture for resale at this event. (Please, no clothes.)

And don't forget to re-register your Safeway card for the eScrip program as well as your Giant card! Wesley Grove can earn money while you do your regular weekly grocery shopping. If you need help registering your cards, please talk to Tammy, and she can do it for you. Remember they must be re-registered each school year.

Thanks a bunch!

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Tired of winter's chill and snow? How about "lunch and a movie" to brighten February's gloom? If that sounds like a winner, plan to come out to a Soup Sunday lunch on Sunday, February 21 immediately following the service, and stay around after the meal for the first movie in the Education and Worship Committee's Lenten film series on the life of Jesus. You can sign up in the Greeting Room to bring soup, bread/muffins, or dessert to the event.

You don't need to wait until the end of the month to share a fellowship meal with your Wesley Grove family, as Jim and Lois Kemp & Company will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, February 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. This event is free to all members of the congregation.

Coffee and Conversation for February takes place on Sunday, February 14 (aka Valentine's Day). Namela and Frank Miller will host. Host families are needed for several other months; check the sign-up sheet in the Greeting Room or see Becky Lewis.

Also on the schedule for February, the Daytime Circle will gather for a Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, February 3, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building; Ladies Lunch Out will take place on Wednesday, February 17 (listen for the location in church); and the UMM will meet at a to-be-determined location for breakfast on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 15, at 8 a.m.

And a quick peek ahead to March shows that we will host our annual Community Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 19, at 2 p.m. at the Education Building; all children in fifth grade and under are welcome to come search for

prizes and treats. The following week, Becky and Brian Lewis will host a Fellowship Breakfast after the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, March 27. All are welcome; no RSVP or contribution is required.

The committee met on January 7 to draft the calendar for the remainder of the year, which follows. A few planning highlights include a trip to see the Damascus High School spring musical, "Into the Woods," on Friday, April 22; a Special Needs "Prom" dance on Saturday, April 30; "Caroling" (singing patriotic songs at the nursing homes) on Sunday, May 22; Frederick Keys Faith Night on Sunday, July 10; and Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday**, September 24. Of course we've filled in the usual yard sales, bazaar, Meet and Greet with Santa, Christmas caroling and so on. Now get out your own calendars and start marking dates; we plan to keep you busy with plenty of Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

February

- 3-Daytime Circle Brown Bag (All brown bags are in the Education Building and start at 12:30 p.m.)
 - 9-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m. (Jim & Lois Kemp)
 - 14-Coffee and Conversation (Frank & Namela Miller)
 - 15-UMM Presidents' Day Breakfast at Tom & Ray's, 8 a.m.
 - 17-Ladies Lunch Out (all LLO start at noon; location varies)
 - 21-Soup Sunday, followed by Education/Worship Committee's Lenten movie, "Son of God."
- Coffee and Conversation moved because of Soup Sunday*

March

- 2-Daytime Circle Brown Bag
 - 14-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)
 - 16-Ladies Lunch Out 2
 - 19-Egg Hunt, 2p.m.
 - 27-Sunrise Breakfast, following 6:30 a.m. service (Becky & Brian Lewis)
- Coffee and Conversation moved because of Cantata*

April

6-Daytime Circle Brown Bag
 9-Games Night @ Monarch home, 7 p.m.
 17-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)
 20-Ladies Lunch Out
 22-DHS musical, "Into the Woods."
 30-Special Needs Prom, 7-10 p.m.

May

4-Daytime Circle Brown Bag
 6-Yard Sale Setup, 7 p.m.
 7-Yard Sale, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 8-Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.
 15-Coffee and Conversation (Confirmation, host TBD)
 18-Ladies Lunch Out
 22-"Caroling," 4 p.m., pot luck dinner/picnic afterward @ Lewis home

June

1-Daytime Circle Salad Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
 5-Coffee and Conversation (Education Sunday, host TBD)
 15-Ladies Lunch Out
 19-Father's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee and Conversation moved because of Father's Day/ Education Sunday

July

8-Celebrate Damascus Parade
 10-Frederick Keys Faith Night, game time 6 p.m.
 20-Ladies Lunch Out
 Summer Picnic TBD (depending on VBS dates)
No Coffee and Conversation

August

17-Ladies Lunch Out
 21-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)

September

7-Daytime Circle Brown Bag
 16-Yard Sale Setup, 7 p.m.
 17-Yard Sale, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 18-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)
 21-Ladies Lunch Out
 24-Blessing of the Animals @ Pet Valu, 3 p.m.

October

3-Daytime Circle Brown Bag
 9-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)
 10-UMM Breakfast, 8 a.m.
 16-Soup Sunday/Crop Walk

19-Ladies Lunch out
 29-Trunk or Treat, 6 to 8 p.m.
Coffee and Conversation moved because of Soup Sunday

November

2-Daytime Circle Brown Bag
 11-UMM Breakfast, 8 a.m.
 16-Ladies Lunch Out
 17-Bazaar Setup, 7 p.m.
 18-Bazaar Setup, 11 a.m.
 19-Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

Our weekly family Sunday School classes continue to grow stronger all the time! Everyone enters each Sunday excited and ready to learn about God and becoming a better Christian. In fact, we even have some kids who race their parents to get here first. And what could be better than that??? Kids that run to get to God!

Currently, we are learning about the life and teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We started with the obvious – his birth at Christmas time – and then moved on to his early years, getting left at the Temple in Jerusalem, and his baptism by his cousin, John – all of this leading up to the season of Lent and Holy Week. Our lessons are filled with stories, artwork, scriptures, videos, songs, discussions, and lots and lots of fun! Please feel free to come and join us at the hall any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. – both young and old. We would love to have you!

Administrative Council Minutes January 11, 2016

In Attendance: Andi Brickman, Lou Burdette, Bob Burke, Randy Falk, Doug Gaither, Ollie Gray, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Pastor Linda Yarrow, and Tricia Yarrow.

Devotions: Tammy read the introduction to *Why This Jubilee?* by James C. Howell, the pastor of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, NC. This will be the book for the Adult Bible Study beginning next Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 pm in the Education Building. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Good News: Lots of great things to share since our last meeting:

- Christmas Cantata – great attendance and lots of good comments!
- Christmas Caroling – biggest turnout ever, which included lots of kids and lots of smiling folks that we sang to! We gave out 57 lap quilts and lots and lots of toiletry products, books, magazines, purses, socks, cookies, etc. A big thank you to everyone who contributed items!
- Holly Days Craft Bazaar – fabulous sales this year – we cleared about \$3,500!
- Visit with Santa Claus – wonderful outreach to both special need and community folks – Santa greeted and spoke with about 100 kids!
- Christmas Decorations in the Sanctuary – They exceeded expectations and are so much more full and festive than many other churches in our area.
- Sunday School – still going strong and averaging about 30-35 each Sunday.
- Christmas Eve Services – Both were very well-received. We've heard lots of positive comments about the humor in the early one and the visit of Santa to the Baby Jesus at His birth at the end of the later one.
- Rearrangement of the Vestibule – seems to be well-received by our congregation.
- Great choir music this past Sunday!
- Weekly Offerings – We took in very nice amounts each Sunday in December. They were above our weekly goal – thus, helping to balance the many Sundays in the fall when we didn't reach this goal.
- New fencing around our cemetery – looks great – thanks to Jim Kemp and the Trustees for getting this done!
- Prayer Bear Ministry – began yesterday with about 30-40 bears blessed and dedicated for this very special service. About 5-6 bears already left the sanctuary yesterday to go out on their missions. We hope that their recipients will contact the church office and let us know where their new homes are. We are considering attaching a return church-addressed postcard to them in the future.

Therefore, we had a very busy, **and successful**, last eight weeks here at WG. We should be very proud of all we do for our church family and the surrounding community!

Old Business

- Lights over the cross: Bulbs have been replaced.
- Light switches in sanctuary: Still in progress.
- Gutter guards installed and finished at the hall.

- Insulation in church ceiling replaced with about 14 inches of new insulation.
- New CPU bought and in process of being installed in the office.
- Port-a-John next to pavilion being replaced by another company at a lower cost.
- Wooden archway over the driveway by the rental house will be removed by this spring.

New Business

On Shrove Tuesday, February 9 (the day before Ash Wednesday), we will have a free pancake and sausage supper from 5-7 p.m. here at the Education Building. All members of our church family are welcome! On Ash Wednesday, February 10, our service will be at Salem UMC beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Turkey and Oyster Dinner, Saturday, March 12: Prices will be \$18 for adults and \$9 for children under 12. Rick Monarch mentioned the new county styrofoam law that went into effect on January 1. He and Becky Lewis will investigate how this affects us this year and beyond. If necessary, he will also check into selling/donating our leftover styrofoam products to a nearby church in Frederick, Carroll, and/or Howard County.

Minutes from the November 9, 2015 meeting were approved by a vote of 10 votes for, with three abstentions.

Committee Reports

Trustees: Working on getting new containers for our two water coolers, one at the Education Building and one at the church, and then getting them installed. They have filters inside them that get changed once a year. This project should be completed soon.

Finance: Not off to a great start in 2016 as we are already \$685 behind our weekly goal after the first two weeks in January. We need \$1,740 each week in the offering plates to meet our 2016 budget.

Looking into possible places (funds, foundations, organizations, etc.) to invest some of our money. We met with a financial consultant from the UM Mid-Atlantic Foundation in November and will meet with a few others in the near future. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings and ask questions to help our decision. Rick thinks that we ended the year with more money than we started with, but is not positive as the year-end report is not finalized. He should have this information by the end of the month.

Christian Fellowship: Committee met last week and planned events and activities for our various fellowship groups for the year. There are a few changes from the last few years, including attending the spring musical at DHS in April and "summer" caroling in May instead of July. A complete list will be in the February newsletter. Please look for it and add to your home calendars.

Missions: We fed and gave Christmas gifts to four needy families in the area. We distributed 57 quilts at area nursing homes while we were caroling. We also took six to eight carloads of donated items to these folks, including toiletries, purses, books, magazines, etc. Thanks to everyone for your support – both financial and physical!

Christian Education: Still going strong with three weekly Sunday School classes. "Belated" Adult Advent Bible Study will begin on January 21 and run for three consecutive weeks. Please join us!

Our Confirmation Class will meet again this Sunday night and continue with their

Continued on page 8

studies. These seven young men will be confirmed into this congregation on Sunday, May 15 – Pentecost – during our regular worship service.

We plan to buy an extender to bring our church Internet service over to the Education Building. We estimate this to cost about \$40.

Worship: This committee will meet on January 31 at noon to plan our winter and spring seasons of worship.

The possibility of having our Easter Cantata on two nights – Saturday and Sunday nights of Palm Sunday Weekend – is being discussed and explored. We are looking into the possibility of taking our Good Friday Service out into the community instead of holding it here in our sanctuary at 7:30 pm on March 25. We are considering holding it at Damascus Park (corner of Routes 124 and 108 in Damascus), weather permitting.

New winter and spring sanctuary banners will be ordered and hung soon. The new office computer was purchased from the Worship Committee 2015 budget. If anyone sees any Christmas wreaths on sale now, please let Doug Gaither know. Some of the old ones were in bad shape when taken down last weekend and need to be replaced.

Communications: We will be establishing an editorial board to decide on any questionable articles in our monthly newsletter. Just a reminder that we have different lists of names for our robo-calls. We have one for our whole congregation in case of cancellations, and another that allows for calls to just members of our prayer chain. If you would like to be added to this group or any other of our group calls, please let Scott Iles know, and we will most gladly add your name.

Staff/Parish Relations: Our three 2015 congregational goals were evaluated just pri-

or to tonight's meeting. We decided that we were successful in growing our weekly Sunday School, but still need to work on providing consistent hospitality to visitors in our sanctuary and then following up with them after their visits with us.

We will be setting our 2016 congregational goals at our March Administrative Council meeting. Please come to this meeting with ideas and suggestions.

We discussed switching our office manager's work hours to just three days a week (Tu, W, Th) at four hours a day to save money. Office Manager Karen Allman suggested this, saying that she can get the work done in just 12 hours a week. Doug motioned that we make this change, and Ollie seconded. All were in favor. We do need to establish a back-up plan for our two signboards when they need to be changed during Karen's four-day absence (F, Sa, Si, M) from the church office. Ollie will work on this.

Vitality: Look for lots of worship and fellowship opportunities during Lent and Easter: family movie nights, joint worship services, cantata, egg hunt, sunrise service, etc. Many of these will be advertised to the community.

Pastor's Report: The confirmation class lock-in is coming up on Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27 from mid-afternoon on Friday until dinner time on Saturday. Our boys will be studying, learning, viewing movies, playing games, and fasting during this 30-hour period. Please keep them, their mentors, and our pastors in your prayers during this time.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. Devotions: Randy Falk.

Closing: Pastor Linda led us in prayer. Bob closed the meeting about 9:15 p.m.

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Annual Spring Dinner

Turkey & Fried Oyster

Saturday, March 12 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Adults - \$17

Children ages 5-12 - \$8

Preschoolers eat free!

Bake Table &

Carryout Meals Available



Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

23640 Woodfield Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20882

www.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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FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 12:30 Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch 7:00 PM Choir	4 7:30 PM Adult Bible Study (Final Advent study)	5	6
7 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	8 7:30 PM Missions	9 5:00-7:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	10 7:30 PM Joint Ash Wednesday Service @ Salem	11 7:30 PM Adult Bible Study (First Lenten study)	12	13
14 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee & Conversation	15 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast (location TBD)	16	17 NOON Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	18 NOON Newsletter Deadline 7:30 PM Adult Bible Study	19	20 8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
21 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Soup Sunday with movie following	22 7:30 PM Finance Committee	23 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	24 7:00 PM Choir	25 7:30 PM Adult Bible Study	26	27
28 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	29 1:00 PM Soup Kitchen					



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

Lenten & Easter Services

Ash Wednesday

February 10, 7:30 p.m.: Salem UMC

Maundy Thursday

March 24, 7:30 p.m.: Mt. Tabor UMC

Good Friday

March 25, 7:30 p.m.: Damascus Park
(weather permitting) *or* Wesley Grove
UMC

Sunrise Easter Service

March 27, 6:30 a.m.: Wesley Grove UMC

*Please invite your family and friends
worship with us.*

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Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
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