# Wesley Grove Messenger

February 2015

#### **Dates to Remember**

Wednesday, February 4
Daytime Circle
Brown Bag Lunch 12:30 PM
Choir 7:00 PM
Vitality Committee 7:15 PM
Sunday, February 8
Boy Scout Sunday 11:00 AM
Monday, February 9
Admin. Council 7:30 PM
Wednesday, February 11
Choir 7:00 PM
Sunday, February 15
Coffee & Conversation NOON
Monday, February 16
Presidents Day OFFICE CLOSED
UMM Fellowship Breakfast @
Tom & Ray's8:00 AM
Missions 7:30 PM
Wednesday, February 18
Newsletter Deadline NOON
Ladies Lunch Out NOON
Pancake Dinner 5:00 PM
Ash Wednesday Service@
Wesley Grove (no choir) 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 21
Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM
Special Needs
Snow Ball 7:00 PM
Sunday, February 22
Sunday School Duckpin
Pizza & Bowling 1:00 PM
Monday, February 23
Finance Committee 7:30 PM
Charge SPRC @ Salem 7:30 PM
Tuesday, February 24
Board of Trustees 7:30 PM
Wednesday, February 25
Choir 7:00 PM

#### From John's Pulpit

#### **GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2 Corinthians 1:20.

The Christian life rests on a foundation of God's promises for today and for the future. We can trust everything that our heavenly Father has said because His word shows Him to be truthful. The Lord knows what is true and speaks honestly in all matters. We can be assured of this because He is holy, and there is no sin in Him. He is also omniscient and understands everything (Hebrews 4:12-13). His promises are based on His infinite knowledge and truthfulness.

The Scripture readings suggest our heavenly Father is faithful, loving, and all powerful.

**Faithful.** Comparing the Scripture to (Isaiah 40:11) the Lord is a shepherd who "gathers His lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart." This means what God has planned for us, He will bring to fruition. And He does not waver in His intentions or will. (Romans 8:28)

**Loving.** This Scripture also gives us the assurance that God is loving and He demonstrated His love at the cross. He sent His Son Jesus to die by crucifixion and thereby take the punishment for our sins. The Savior experienced God's wrath against iniquity so we might know only His love. This is the ultimate proof of His devotion to us.

**All-powerful.** We always have to remember that a Divine Power created the earth and raised the Savior back to life, proving that God has the ability to carry out all His plans. Our omnipotent Father can keep every one of His promises.

(Continued on page 6)

#### **Lectionary Readings**

#### February 1

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

#### February 2

Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 or Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18

#### February 8

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

#### February 15

Transfiguration Sunday 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

#### February 18

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 22

First Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

#### **December Financial Report**

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,458.25
Pastor's Salary	\$1,676.16
Pastor's Benefits	\$860.72
Housing Allowance	\$813.92
Church Secretary's Salary	\$720.00
Payroll Taxes	\$49.35
Grass Cutting and Snow Removal	\$1,560.00
Custodian's Salary	\$720.00
Programs	\$2,205.05
Office Expenses	\$684.38
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,354.12
Miscellaneous Adjustment	\$221.36
Total Expenses	\$12,323.31

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$10,756.98
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,710.91
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,275.20
Grocery eScrips	\$2.22
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$6.16
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$0.00
Total Income	\$13,751.47
December 1, 2014 Balance	\$35,845.74
December 31, 2014 Balance	\$37,273.90

Birt	hdays
22	Andi Brickman Shelby Kepner Andre Mirani Stephen Lewis
	22

#### **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...

**Dead Lightbulbs:** Save these for a craft that the Evening Circle will be making for next fall's Holly Days Craft Bazaar. We would especially like any odd or unusual-shaped bulbs.

Aluminum Cans, Foil, and Pie Plates: Save these materials, bring them to the Education Building, and place them in the large yellow bins in the courtyard. Andi Brickman takes these items to an area recycling center for us about once a quarter, and Wesley Grove earns \$15-\$25 each time.

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 cups, Avery office supplies, Yoplait yogurt, Land-O-Lakes butter, Motts apple juice, and many other products, so check out your packaging carefully before throwing it away.

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 & Paperback Novels:** When you are done reading these, do not recycle them. Instead, give them to an area nursing home or county jail for their residents to read and enjoy.

Old Blankets, Sheets, Towels, Pillows, and Comforters: Don't throw these away. Animal shelters can use them as bedding for their animals.

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. 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 9 from 9 am to 2 pm. Wesley Grove will gladly accept all gently used household items, sporting goods, toys, books, and furniture for resale at this event. Please, no clothing.

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 Monarch, and she can do it for you. Remember they must be re-registered each school year. Thanks a bunch!

# June 28th Gates open at 3:30pm



Enjoy a pre-game concert by the Waterboyz for Jesus

Sunday Funday: play catch in the outfield starting at 5pm Post Game: Fireworks and Kids Run The Bases

#### GROUP PRICING:

Group Size  25-99 100 or more	Reserved	Reserved	Field
	Adult	Youth	Seating
	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$11.00
	\$8.00	\$5.00	\$10.00
Group Siz	e Ad	GA dult	GA Youth
15-99		7.00	\$5.00
100 or moi		5.00	\$4.00

#### **FOOD COUPONS:**

#### **Dugout Dogs**

Esskay Hot Dog & Regular Soft Drink \$7.25 each

#### Chicken Tender Package

Chicken Tenders & Fries basket with Regular Soft Drink \$10.25 each

#### Hot Corner Grill

Choice of Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Chicken Sandwich or Italian Sausage with French Fries & Regular Soft Drink \$11.00 each

16 oz. Domestic Draft Beer Voucher: \$5.25 each 16 oz. Microbrew Draft Beer Voucher: \$7.50 each

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ORDER TICKETS
CONTACT BEN SEALY
BSEALY@FREDERICKKEYS.COM 301.815.9908

#### **Christian Fellowship News**

Becky Lewis, Chair

We're going to have a ball in February: A Snow Ball, that is, as we welcome our special needs friends on Saturday, February 21, for an evening of dancing and snacks from 7 to 10 p.m. If you would like to be blessed by helping share Christian love with our guests, please see Becky Lewis. The dance is just part of a very busy weekend, as a Men's Prayer Breakfast takes place the same day in the Education Building at 8 a.m., and the Sunday School will travel to the Mt. Airy Duckpin Lanes for bowling and pizza after church the following day.

There's even more food on the schedule for February: The Daytime Circle resumes their Brown Bag Lunches on Wednesday, February 4, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building; Frank and Namela Miller host Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, February 15, following the service; the United Methodist Men meet for a Fellowship Breakfast at Tom and Ray's on Monday, February 16 (Presidents Day) at 8 a.m.; and Ladies Lunch Out meets on Wednesday, February 18, at noon. Not full yet? Come out to the Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper at 5 p.m., also on February 18, and then walk on over to the church for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m.

Looking ahead to March...well, why not look at the whole year? The Christian Fellowship Committee met in January to lay out the schedule for 2015, which follows. Get out your pens and start marking your calendars for another year of Food, Fun, and Fellowship! (Although do take extra note that the Monarchs will host a Games Night on Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m., to start the month's activities. More details to come in the bulletin and the March newsletter.)

#### March

4-Daytime Circle Brown Bag, 12:30 p.m., Education Building

7-Games Night, 7 p.m. (hosts Tammy and Rick Monarch)

15-Coffee and Conversation, after service (hosts TBD)

18-Ladies Lunch Out, noon

21-Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m.

28-Easter Egg Hunt, 2 p.m. (tentative)

#### April

Woman/Man of the Year Balloting throughout the month

1-Daytime Circle Brown Bag, 12:30 p.m., Education Building

5-Sunrise Service Breakfast (hosts Brian and Becky Lewis)

11-UMM-sponsored Spring Cleanup Day Medieval Times Adult Fellowship Outing

15-Ladies Lunch Out, noon

18-Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m.

19-Spring Potluck Lunch

26-Sunday School Mini Golf, 1 p.m.

#### May

6-Daytime Circle Brown Bag, 12:30 p.m., Education Building

8-Yard Sale Setup, 7 p.m.

9-Spring Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

10-Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., (hosts UMM)

Woman of the Year presentation, during service

16-Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m.

17-Blessing of the Animals, 3 p.m. (location TBD)

20-Ladies Lunch Out, noon

#### June

3-Daytime Circle Salad Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Education Building 17-Ladies Lunch Out, noon

#### **Missions News**

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Thank you to everyone who participated in and/or contributed to our Damascus Help food pantry drive, holiday gifts and food baskets, and nursing home collections. All of these drives were very successful and greatly appreciated by the recipients. The soup kitchen on December 29 was lots of fun and we had such wonderful help! Special kudos to our Sunday School children who volunteered and helped serve the food and clean up after the meal.

Missions will be collecting drinks and snacks for the afterschool "Rock the House" program during the month of February. There are 25 children currently attending after school from the Damascus Gardens and Perrywood Apartments. They are in a safe environment and are tutored, helped with homework, and taught about the Bible. The snacks are the highlight of their afternoon. Please see the signup sheet in the greeting room if you would like to participate.

Our first 2015 Missions meeting will be in February. If you have any projects you would like us to explore, please speak to a member of the Missions team.

(Continued from page 1)

Pastor John Ampiah-Addison

#### **Sunday School News**

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

Our weekly family Sunday School Class continues 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 anytime – both young and old. We would love to have you!

#### **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.

### **Administrative Council Meeting January 12, 2015**

In attendance: Bob Burke, Pastor Linda Yarrow, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Tammy Monarch, Judy Hughes, Lewis Burdette, Scott Iles, Andi Brickman, Becky Lewis, Doug Gaither, Jim Kemp, Ollie Gray

**Devotional:** Rick Monarch shared a story about The One-Fingered King, with a theme of God is perfect, he is never wrong.

Good News Items: Live Nativity, Cantata, Santa Meet and Greet, and Christmas Eve services were all very successful and well attended. Caroling at nursing homes was very well received. The soup kitchen was fun with lots of help including Sunday School children. Missions holiday baskets and nursing home collections were good.

**Action Items:** Ollie Gray made a motion to accept the November 10, 2014, minutes as written and published, Rick Monarch seconded, vote taken and minutes approved as written.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Finance – Jim Kemp:** Finances are good. The checkbook balance at year's end was higher than at the beginning of the year.

**Christian Fellowship – Becky Lewis:** The 2015 events have been planned and will be in the newsletter.

**Education – Tammy Monarch:** VBS will be the week of July 13 with a Himalayan theme. We need to plan a fall confirmation class.

Missions - Jackie Hottinger: Our five holiday families were very appreciative (and

some overwhelmed) with their gifts and food baskets. The nursing home residents were also very happy with their gifts of toiletries, jewelry, and purses.

Worship – Doug Gaither: The church has received a donation to provide artificial flowers for each season. We will no longer have a signup sheet for fresh flowers. New Lenten banners have been ordered. The Easter Cantata will be on March 29.

**Trustees – Andi Brickman:** We have some plumbing issues to take care of, and we're also looking at bids to insulate and ventilate the church attic. The music room needs some shelves built.

**Pastor's Report – Pastor Linda:** Had very positive feedback at the Live Nativity and talked to about 40 people. Sent pictures of the event to conference and the vitality coaching team.

**Old Business:** Sound system has been installed. Parking lot lights for the back lot and playground will be provided and installed by Potomac Edison. Karen Allman is coordinating the project, which is still a work in progress.

**New Business – Ollie Gray for SPRC:** We need to set goals for the congregation for 2015. This will be an action item for the March 2015 meeting.

Devotions for next meeting will be Bob Burke.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer from Pastor Linda at 8:53 p.m.

(Christian Fellowship, continued from page 5)

20-Special Needs Picnic, 5 p.m.

21-Father's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. (hosts Evening Circle)

Man of the Year presentation, during service 28-Frederick Keys Faith Night outing (See flyer p. 5; let Becky Lewis know if interested).

#### July

15-Ladies lunch out, noon 26-Charge Picnic, 10 a.m. combined service in the picnic pavilion

#### **August**

16-Coffee and Conversation, after service, (hosts Suzie & Don Diddle)
19-Ladies lunch out, noon

#### **September**

2-Daytime Circle Brown Bag, 12:30 p.m., Education Building

16-Ladies lunch out, noon

18-Yard Sale Setup, 7 p.m.

19-Fall Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

20-Coffee and Conversation, after service (hosts TBD)

#### **October**

7-Daytime Circle Brown Bag, 12:30 p.m., Education Building

12-UMM Fellowship Breakfast, 8 a.m., Tom & Ray's

17-Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m.

18-CROP Walk/Lunch, after service

21-Ladies lunch out, noon

25-Special Needs Halloween Event, 2-4 p.m. Trunk or Treat, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

#### **November**

4-Daytime Circle Brown Bag, 12:30 p.m., Education Building

7-UMM-sponsored Fall Cleanup Day

11-UMM Fellowship Breakfast, 8 a.m., Tom & Ray's

15-Coffee and Conversation, after service, hosts Cathy & Bob Burke

18-Ladies lunch out, noon

19-Bazaar Setup, 7 p.m.

20-Bazaar Setup, 11 a.m.

21-Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### **December**

2-Daytime Circle Holiday Luncheon, Barbara Fritchie, 12:30 p.m.

5-"Meet and Greet" with Santa: Special Needs 2-4 p.m., Community 4-5 p.m.

11-Sunday School Christmas Party, 7 p.m.

20-Caroling and Dinner, 4 p.m.

Evening Circle/UMM Christmas Party, TBD

#### **Floral Cross**

Worship Committee

This winter has been bitter cold and we're all looking for signs of spring. For the Lenten season, our church will replace the altar flowers with greenery. On Easter Sunday, we will decorate our altar with a profusion of colorful flowers to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The Worship Committee invites the congregation to participate in our new tradition, the Easter Cross. We had one last year that looked lovely. Thank you to everyone who brought flowers then. Please look in your flower beds on Easter Sunday, April 5, for colorful flowers with which to decorate the cross in our greeting room. Please clip a few small bunches of flowers to about 6"-8" in length and wrap the cut ends with a small strip of damp paper towel, covered with a strip of aluminum foil. There will be rubber bands to attach the flowers to the cross. Easter is quite early this year, so if you don't see flowers in your garden, please stop by your local grocery store and bring a small bouquet with you on Easter morning.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	2	3 6:45 PM Lions Club	12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch 7:00 PM Choir 7:15 Vitality Comm.	S	9	7
8 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Boy Scout Sunday)	9 7:30 PM Administra- tive Council	10	7:00 PM Choir	12	13	14
9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee and Conversation	16 Presidents Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 AM UMM Fel- lowship Breakfast @ Tom & Ray's 7:30 PM Missions	17 6:45 PM Lions Club	NOON Newsletter Deadline/ Ladies Lunch Out 5:00 PM Pancake Dinner 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	19	20	8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 PM Special Needs Snow Ball
9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Sunday School Pizza & Bowling	23 7:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Charge SPRC @ Salem	24 7:30 PM Trustees	25 7:00 PM Choir	26	27	28

#### **VBS News**

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just five months away! We will once again hold it in the evenings from 5:30-8:30 during the week of Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17 in our educational building. Please mark your calendars now, save this week, and pass the word on to your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors.

It's time to start planning and preparing for VBS right now. This year's theme of God's Greatness will take place high up in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal. We will set up a base camp and then climb together to the summit of Mt. Everest, the one spot on Earth physically closest to Heaven, and therefore, to God.

We are asking all of you to check in your basements, garages, attics, and closets for items that we could use to decorate the Education Building to look like a campsite high up in the mountains: camping gear, tents, backpacks, sleeping bags, lanterns, etc., and anything to help us create snowy mountain background scenes. Please let Tammy Monarch know if you have 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.

#### **Dear Wesley Grove Family,**

Jim Kemp, Finance Chair

Just a note of thanks to you from the finance chair. It is a blessing that we ended 2014 with more money in the checkbook than we had on January 1, 2014. Thanks to everyone for helping with our fundraisers, for your weekly giving, and for just coming and being a part of our church family.

Isn't it a joy to see our youth in church and taking such an active part? I know it's a joy and challenge to Doug and Tammy, the way our Sunday School has grown.

I know everything costs money, especially all the programs and projects our small church does. I want to thank all our committee chairs for spending only what they needed to and keeping our budget low.

It is really a joy to be a member of this church and hear the comments on how nice it was that we sang and gave some joy to the patients at the nursing homes and our shut-ins. We also receive a lot of good comments on how we help the community in many ways. Soup kitchen, lap rugs and toiletries to nursing homes, Damascus HELP, Damascus food pantry, Easter egg hunt, visit with Santa, Trunk or Treat, special needs programs, Blessing of the Animals, free ball field and playground, the help we give to several families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, live nativity production, Missions Committee for all mission projects we give to, our youth for their involvement in many mission fundraisers, the list goes on and on, and I may have missed a few. This just goes to show how active our church is!

God bless everyone and have a great 2015!

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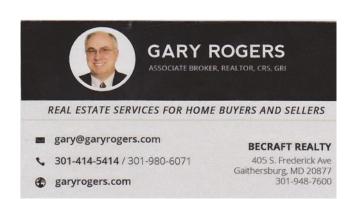
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The pavilion, ballfield, and playground are used by the youth in the community. Please support these businesses! All of their donations go to support the maintenance of these facilities.



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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.



Please join us for a special service to mark the beginning of Lent!

Ash Wednesday February 18 7:30 p.m.

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