

## Dates to Remember

Wednesday, January 6  
 Choir .....7:00 PM  
 Thursday, January 7  
 Christian Fellowship .....7:30 PM  
 Saturday, January 9  
 "Taking Down the Greens" ..... 9:30 AM  
 Sunday, January 10  
 "Blessing of the Prayer Bears" ...11:00 AM  
 Monday, January 11  
 Admin. Council .....7:30 PM  
 Wednesday, January 13  
 Choir .....7:00 PM  
 Sunday, January 17  
 Coffee and Conversation .....NOON  
 Confirmation Class .....5:00 PM  
 Monday, January 18  
 Men's Fellowship Breakfast @  
 Tom and Ray's..... 8:00 AM  
 Newsletter Deadline .....NOON  
 Wednesday, January 20  
 Ladies Lunch Out .....NOON  
 Choir .....7:00 PM  
 Thursday, January 21  
 Adult Bible Study .....7:30 PM  
 Saturday, January 23  
 Betty Crocker "A to Z" Pot Luck Dinner  
 @ the Falk Home .....6:00 PM  
 Monday, January 25  
 Finance .....7:30 PM  
 Tuesday, January 26  
 Trustees .....7:00 PM  
 Wednesday, January 27  
 Choir .....7:00 PM  
 Thursday, January 28  
 Adult Bible Study .....7:30 PM  
 Sunday, January 31  
 Worship Committee .....NOON

## From the Pastor's Desk

As we go into this New Year, let us not leave our Christmas Spirit in December. The end of 2015 has been difficult worldwide, with terrorist attacks in Paris, in San Bernardino, in London, and in Baghdad, and yet we managed to keep the Christmas Spirit somehow.

Yes, we were waiting with the joyous anticipation of the birth of the blessed Christ Child. (And the 2.2 million Christmas specials probably helped us keep the Christmas Spirit, even when the nightly news was filled with tragedies and sorrow.) But now it is January, and we are faced with a couple more months ... at least ... of winter, and maybe we might even get that horrible four-letter word ... S N O W! How do we keep the hope, the peace, the joy, the love of Christmas? Is it something we only feel between Thanksgiving through — if we are lucky — Epiphany?

We have spent time with that sibling who knows EXACTLY the right button to push to make us crazy, and yet it was nice, wasn't it? We shared time with our children, our family, watching for the umpteenth time many of the Christmas specials together. Maybe sharing what makes them so special to us, or maybe remembering the first time we saw them. But it was time, wonderful time, together! Does it have to end on January 6? Why can't you invite your sibling over in January for a family night together, playing games, making popcorn, and watching a movie? Just to spend time together in the Christmas spirit when it is **not** Christmas. Gather your family together and introduce them to a new book, a special movie, **anything** just so you can have time together, or if that horrible word does occur, enjoy the wonders of a winter wonderland. (Me, my enjoyment will be in a comfy and cozy house with a cup of hot chocolate and a game or two, inside.)

*(Continued on page 3)*

## January Birthdays

|    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 2  | Susan Meunier                |
| 8  | Gregg Lynagh                 |
| 11 | Betty Duvall                 |
| 16 | Brian Lewis                  |
| 17 | Daniel Briggs                |
| 20 | Lewis Burdette<br>Dylan Falk |
| 24 | Mary Lynn Welch              |
| 30 | Joe Mallon                   |

## Lectionary Readings

### January 1, 2016

*New Year's Day/Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus*

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Philippians 2:5-11

### January 3, 2016

*Epiphany Sunday*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### January 6, 2016

*Epiphany of the Lord*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### January 10, 2016

*First Sunday after the Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord*

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 17, 2016

*Second Sunday After the Epiphany*

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

### January 24, 2016

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19 (UMH 750)

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

### January 31, 2016

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

## November 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               | \$750.00           |
| Payroll Taxes                  | \$58.52            |
| Grass Cutting and Snow Removal | \$1,300.00         |
| Custodian                      | \$500.00           |
| Programs                       | \$918.75           |
| Office Expenses                | \$52.00            |
| Trustees - Maintenance         | \$5,898.40         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | <b>\$14,275.40</b> |

| Income                          |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections              | \$7,001.62         |
| Sunday School Collections       | \$84.07            |
| Cell Tower - Sprint             | \$1,762.24         |
| Cell Tower - Verizon            | \$1,275.20         |
| Grocery eScrips                 | \$0.00             |
| Church Dinner Proceeds          | \$150.25           |
| Use of Hall                     | \$120.00           |
| Interest Income                 | \$6.16             |
| Housing Allowance Reimbursement | \$2,483.25         |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>\$12,882.79</b> |

## A Letter to My Church Family

2015 is over, and we will wind up with more money in the checkbook than we started January with. Thanks for all your financial support, fundraisers and giving's.

I have been your finance chairman for the past three years and with your help, we have been able to pay all our bills and come out with some money ahead. Randy Falk will be your new chairman of finance, so please support and work with him the way you did with me.

Let's keep our church family strong by keeping an open communication with all our committees. If something is not going the way you think, speak up. Open communication makes a healthy church and solves problems before they become big ones. Have a Happy New Year.

**Jim Kemp**

*(The Pastor's Desk....from page*

During the Christmas season, we also spend more time with God, thinking about God's perfect gift, singing about the love that comes down at Christmas, because, well because God loves us and we love God. But in January, do we tuck God away, bringing out Jehovah only on Sunday mornings? God is your family too and his love comes down for us in January, in February — you get my drift. God loves you so much that He left the divinity of heaven, was incarnated, and put on human form, to be with you! So spend time with your Heavenly Father, ready your Bible. Talk with Him. Spend time in conversation, in prayer.

What else makes Christmas time special for you? Those special things you love at the holidays do not need to end after Christmas.

Maybe people seem to be nicer to each other during the season. Well, even if others stop being nice after Christmas, do you have to stop? We read in John 3:16: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God's love is life-giving and doesn't end on December 25 or even January 6. So why too often do we no longer see examples — or **are** examples of Jesus' love — after then? Keeping the Christmas Spirit is to continue to mirror God's love to a world that is missing that love, daily. St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:4-8, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." So, be patient, be kind. We don't need three Christmas ghosts to remind us that we are to do these things, live this way, feel this love daily and not only during the "Christmas season." It is hard work keeping this Christmas Spirit alive in us just until Epiphany, but as we enter into the time after Epiphany, as we read the Gospel stories of Jesus, he is teaching us this is what we

must do — for each other, for our families, and for the stranger we do not know. It makes no difference that as you were entering the building, the person in front of you closed the door in your face, the Christmas Spirit wants you to hold the elevator for the person hurrying down the hall to get it. So what if it is your turn to zipper into traffic and yet someone else cuts you off? The Christmas Spirit says let it go, maybe even say a prayer for that person.

Bring your Christmas Spirit with you into 2016. I can guarantee that the end of 2015 will not bring about the end to war, the end to gun violence, the end to bigotry and hatred — and I pray it doesn't bring the end to love. Love doesn't have to end at Christmas, you can carry it into the New Year to share all 366 days of 2016 and then into 2017 — but let's just take it one year at a time. Remember, the Christmas Spirit can be described in one four-letter word, L - O - V - E, and ...

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Christina G. Rossetti, 1885

*Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed  
and love-filled 2016!*

*Pastor Linda*

## Thank you.

As 2015 comes to a close, I would like to thank all of my Wesley Grove Church Family for the love you have sent my way as I fought my battle with cancer. You all went out of your way to support me and my family during the year long battle. Thank you for all the cards, calls, meals, rides to doctor and all the special things you did to help us. I feel truly blessed to have finished the long battle thru chemo and radiation. My gift to all of you, is that you all have a safe and healthy 2016.

Your Friend in Christ,  
Andi Brickman

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

Got ideas for Christian Fellowship events for 2016? Please be sure to share them with any member of the committee before our initial planning meeting for the year on Thursday, January 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building. We'll be planning events for the entire year, so be sure you have a sharpened pencil or new pen ready when the February newsletter comes out!

While the meeting kicks off the month, we'll end with our "Betty Crocker A to Z Pot

Luck Dinner" at the Falk home on January 23 at 6:00 pm. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Greeting Room, where you'll sign up to bring a dish starting with a specific letter. Sign up early to get a good letter!

Also on the light January calendar are Ladies Lunch Out on Wednesday, January 20; a United Methodist Men Fellowship Breakfast at Tom and Ray's on Monday, January 18 (Martin Luther King Day) at 8 a.m.; and Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, January 17 (hosts Brian and Becky Lewis.).

## Sunday School News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

During the month of January, we will be learning about the early life of Jesus. This is the period in his life that we do not know much about. We know a good deal about his miraculous birth, and then we jump to his dedication at the Temple, his family's escape and return from Egypt, and then to his first declaration of his father at age 12. Aside from these few stories, we know very little about Jesus' boyhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. At about age thirty, we know that Jesus was baptized by his cousin, John, and was tempted three times by Satan. These events will bring us to the end of the month and the beginning of Lent and Jesus' ministry.

Please feel free to join us any Sunday at 9:30 am for an interesting and inspiring conversation about the life of Christ. We have three age-level classes waiting for you and your family!

## Mission News

*Jackie Hottinger, Chair*

Thanks to the Wesley Grove angels and elves, four local families were blessed with holiday gifts and food baskets. They were all very appreciative. I invited all of the families to church, so maybe we will see them one Sunday.

The toiletry, clothes and jewelry donations for the nursing homes were wonderful again this year; I believe we collected more than ever before. Thank you, everyone, this mission is always so humbling and heart-warming for all of us. The recipients are so deserving.

Have a Blessed 2016!

## Don't Throw That Away!

January is a month that many of us make resolutions to clean out the old and make room for the new. As you are doing this, think about what items can be recycled, reused, and/or re-conditioned and what items are truly trash. Here is a list of items that should be saved for area schools, animal shelters, nursing homes, and other community organizations. Just bring these items to the vestibule at church, and Tammy Monarch will see that they get delivered to their new homes.

**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 your packaging carefully before throwing it away. Each one is worth 10 cents, so the money can add up quickly!

**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 of 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.

**Caps from All Coca-Cola Products:** Schools collect these for money too.

**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 gal-

lon milk jugs and orange juice containers. Art teachers use these to mix small amounts of paint and to make collages.

**Magazines and Paperbacks:** 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.

**Eyeglasses:** The Damascus Lions Club re-conditions these for needy folks in our community.

**Sheets, Blankets, Towels, Pillows:** These are used by local animal shelters for bedding.

**Small Trinkets, Prizes, Gifts:** We can use these types of things for bingo prizes.

**Extra 2016 Calendars:** Bring these to the vestibule for others to take and use at their homes.

**New or Gently Used Stuffed Bears:** We can use these for our new Prayer Bear Ministry.

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, animal shelters, and, of course, ourselves!

### Adult Bible Study

Our Advent Bible Study never even got off the ground before December was half over. However, instead of just pushing it aside, we've decided to have "Advent in January Bible Study." Join us on three consecutive weeks beginning Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building as we study "Why This Jubilee?" Please let Tammy Monarch or Pastor Linda know if you will be attending.

# 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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# JANUARY 2016

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                                | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|---|
|  |  |  |   |  | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship (Communion)  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>                               | <b>6</b><br>7:00 PM Choir                           | <b>7</b><br>7:30 PM Christian Fellowship Committee | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>9:30 "Taking Down the Greens"                                       |
| <b>10</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>Blessing of the Prayer Bears   | <b>11</b><br>7:30 PM Admin. Council                  | <b>12</b>                              | <b>13</b><br>7:00 PM Choir                          | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b>   |
| <b>17</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>Coffee & Conversation<br>5:00 PM Confirmation                                  | <b>18</b><br>8:00 AM UMM<br>Breakfast at Tom & Ray's | <b>19</b><br>NOON Newsletter Deadline  | <b>20</b><br>NOON Ladies Lunch Out<br>7:00 PM Choir | <b>21</b><br>7:30 PM Adult Bible Study             | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b><br>6:00 PM Betty Crocker "A to Z"<br>Pot Luck Dinner at the Falk home |
| <b>24</b> :30 AM S. School<br><b>11:00 AM</b> <u>Worship</u><br><b>31</b><br>9:30 AM S. School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>NOON Worship Comm. | <b>25</b><br>7:30 PM Finance Committee               | <b>26</b><br>7:00 PM Board of Trustees | <b>27</b><br>7:00 PM Choir                          | <b>28</b><br>7:30 PM Adult Bible Study             | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b>   |



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.



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

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