

Wesley Grove Messenger

October 2014

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, October 1
Daytime Circle Brown
Bag Lunch 12:30 PM
Choir 7:00 PM

Sunday, October 5
Fall Cantata:
Every Moment A Song 11:00 AM &
7:30 PM

Wednesday, October 8
Choir 7:00 PM

Sunday, October 12
Soup Sunday & Crop Walk NOON

Monday, October 13
UMM Breakfast
@Tom & Ray's 8:00 AM
Admin. Council 7:30 PM

Tuesday, October 14
Charge Conference
@Salem 7:00 PM

Wednesday, October 15
Ladies Lunch Out NOON
Choir 7:00 PM
Missions 7:30 PM

Thursday, October 16
Vitality Committee
@ Dunkin Donuts 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 18
Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM
Newsletter Deadline NOON

Wednesday, October 22
Turkey & Oyster Setup 6:00 PM
Choir 7:00 PM

Friday, October 24
Turkey & Oyster Setup 1:00 PM

Saturday, October 25
Turkey & Oyster
Dinner 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 26
Trunk or Treat 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Monday, October 27
Finance Committee 7:30 PM

Tuesday, October 28
Board of Trustees 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October 29
Choir 7:00 PM

From the Pastor's Desk

Why are we afraid of things that go bump in the night on October 31? It always confuses me when someone says that allowing our children to trick or treat is not Christian. They really don't know the full history of Halloween: It has a Christian origin.

The name "Halloween" comes from the All Saints Day celebration of the early Christian church, a day set aside for the solemn remembrance of the martyrs. Originally, this was held on May 13. but Pope Gregory III moved it to November 1, the dedication day of All Saints Chapel in St. Peter's in Rome and right in the middle of the Celtic festival of Samhain. Later, in the 840s, Pope Gregory IV commanded that All Saints be observed everywhere. Then in 998, St. Odilo, the abbot of a monastery of Cluny in southern France, added celebration of All Souls Day on November 2. This was a day of prayer for the souls of all the faithful departed, not just the recognized saints of the Catholic Church. All Hallows Eve, the evening before All Saints Day, began the time of remembrance. "All Hallows Eve" was eventually contracted to "Hallow-e'en," which became "Halloween."

It was common practice, as Christianity moved throughout Europe, for church celebrations to coincide with a pagan holiday in order to counter pagan influences and provide a Christian alternative. Usually that only managed to "Christianize" a pagan ritual - the ritual was still pagan, but mixed with Christian symbolism. That's what happened to All Saints Eve - it was the original Halloween alternative!

In late October, as people were getting things prepared so they could survive the winter and as the days grew shorter, they held a three-

(Continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

October 5, 2014

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

A Season of Saints Begins (through All Saints Day or Sunday)

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19 (UMH 750)

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 12, 2014

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sabbath

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829)

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 19, 2014

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Laity Sunday

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 99 (UMH 819)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

October 26, 2014

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 789)

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

(Pastor's Desk, continued from page 1)

day festival celebrating the final harvest and the beginning of winter, the season where the earth lies fallow and dead. And those three days were October 31 to November 2. During this particular festival, the Celts believed that the curtain that divided the living and the dead lifted and allowed the spirits of the dead to walk among them. They believed the spirits were earthbound until they received a proper sendoff with treats - possessions, wealth, food, and drink. Spirits who were not suitably "treated" would "trick" those who had neglected them.

Throughout the centuries, Samhain and All Hallows Eve mixed together. The mixing did not stop with the Celtic festival and the Christian celebrations of the saints and souls, but more would be added to this mixture. During outbreaks of the bubonic plague - the Black Death - in 14th/15th century France, the "dance of death" made its appearance. This was commonly painted on the walls of cemeteries and shows the devil leading a daisy chain of people - popes, kings, ladies, knights, monks, peasants, lepers - into the tomb. Then we add in Guy Fawkes Day, November 5, the day the plot to blow up the Protestant King James I and his Parliaments was foiled. Guy Fawkes Day is a celebration in England when bands of revelers put on masks and visit local Catholics in the dead of night, demanding beer and cakes for their celebration: trick or treat!

Now send all these traditions over to the United States, mix it up with a good dose of immigrant tradition, and you get American Halloween. Oh, and witches at Halloween? They were added by the greeting card industry. Greeting cards did not

(Continued on page 3)

October Birthdays

2	Louise Burdette	18	Alicia Wilson
4	Suzie Diddle	20	Joyce King
6	June Ward	25	Jenny Mirani
9	Allan Walter		Mary Jane Walter
	Donald Hobbs	27	Cliff Davis
14	Vonnie Williams	28	Michael
16	Paul Eisenhour		Norwood
	Rich Rupp	30	Charlie Stone

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

October activities focus on the young people of our church and community, as we walk to raise funds for CROP and we invite the community to share in a safe observation of Halloween. Both activities involve food, of course!

Join your church family after service on Sunday, October 12 (**please note date change**), for our Fall Soup Sunday, which is being held earlier in the fall than usual so that you can cheer on our participants as they walk on our church grounds to raise funds for CROP. Sign up in the Greeting Room to bring soup, bread/muffins, or dessert for the lunch, and to sponsor one or more of our walkers in their fundraising efforts. One-quarter of funds raised by CROP during October fundraising activities return locally to benefit Damascus Help's food closet. We'll gather in the courtyard immediately after service for "Happy Hour" snacks while we cheer on our walkers, then go inside to warm up with lunch at the conclusion of the walk.

Food also plays a role in our Annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 26; not only will church members distribute candy from the decorated trunks (tailgates work too!) of their vehicles to our community children, we'll also offer hot dogs, chips, drinks, and s'mores, along with some fun Halloween-related activities. "Trunk or Treating" starts at 6 p.m., but please come around 5 p.m. to decorate and set up your vehicle. And bring **lots** of candy: last year's event was a howling success!

Other October activities include Daytime Circle Brown Bag on October 1 at 1:30 p.m.;

UMM Breakfast at Tom and Ray's on Columbus Day, October 13, at 8 a.m.; and Ladies Lunch Out on October 15 at noon. Host families are needed for Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, October 19, and Sunday, November 30.

Continuing a look ahead to November, we'll host our Special Needs friends for a Groovy Movie Sing-Along and dinner on Saturday, November 1, and of course, mark your calendar now for our Annual Holly Days Bazaar on Saturday, November 22.

(Pastor's Desk, continued from page 2)

catch on but the witches stayed. (Guess it wasn't Hallmark, they know how to make anything into a holiday!)

So yes, Halloween has pagan roots but it also has Christian roots and roots of rebellion. Should our children trick or treat? That is for each family to decide. For me, I love Halloween! It's a time of family fun. Families get together and plan costumes and decorating. Especially with young children, families go out trick-or-treating together. Make your decisions and know whatever you decide, I support you. I just ask that you apply grace to those who do not agree with your stand. And then enjoy October 31, celebrate or don't celebrate it, but whatever you do on that day, keep family in it. And thank God for the gift of your family.

Fly with Christ,

Pastor Linda

P.S. If you celebrate this now, very American holiday, don't forget we have three trunk-or-treats going on the last weekend of October. All the information is in the bulletin. Please come and have fun with your church family.

Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

Our Sunday School started back up four weeks ago after our summer hiatus with 15 students and 13 adults – wow! And we decided to start at – *where else?* – “The Beginning!” So far, we have studied the Old Testament stories of creation, Adam and Eve, the first sin, Noah and his family, the Great Flood, and Abram. As always, our kids are excited and eager to learn about God and His Kingdom here on Earth.

During the month of October, we will continue on with Abram becoming Abraham; his son, Isaac; then moving on to Esau and Jacob; and leading up to Joseph – the great and amazing superheroes of the Old Testament. We are open and welcoming to anyone joining us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, so please feel free!

Many of our Sunday School students will participate in our Wesley Grove CROP Walk on Sunday, October 12 immediately following the worship service. Please plan on attending, sponsoring one (or more!) of our walkers, and enjoying a few moments of conversation with our friends here at Wesley Grove as you cheer on the youngest members of our congregation. Or feel free to wear your sneakers and *walk with our children* as they complete as many laps around our church property as they can in 30 minutes! Remember all money raised goes to help fight hunger both here in our community and around the world.

Worship News

Doug Gaither, Worship Chair

Laity Sunday is coming soon! In the United Methodist Church, it is celebrated each year in October. This year's date is Sunday, October 19. If you would like to participate in the service this year by reading scripture, leading us in prayer, preaching the sermon, etc., please contact Tammy Monarch at (301) 253-0044 as soon as possible. We would love to have many, many members of our congregation involved in worship this day!

Vitality Committee News

Please join us Thursday, October 16 at 7:30 pm at Dunkin Donuts in Damascus as we discuss how to grow our church. Please also mark your calendars now for Saturday, November 1, as we will be traveling together to the UMC Conference Center in Fulton from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this day. This is a follow-up workshop to the one that Pastor Linda and Tammy Monarch attended in the spring. As a congregation, we are working together to plan services and events that will attract possible new members. Everyone is welcome to join us – you just need to be excited about Wesley Grove and being a Christian! Please let Tammy know at (301) 253-0044 if you would like to attend.

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch 7:00 PM Choir	2	3	4 9:30 AM Cantata Dress Rehearsal
5 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Cantata/ Communion 7:30 PM Cantata	6	7	8 7:00 PM Choir	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Soup Sunday/ CROP Walk	13 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast @ Tom & Ray's 7:30 Admin Council	14 7:00 PM Charge Conference @ Salem	15 NOON Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Missions	16 7:30 PM Vitality Committee @ Dunkin Donuts in Damascus	17	18 8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast NOON Newsletter Deadline
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee & Conversation	20	21	22 6:00 PM Turkey & Oyster Dinner Setup 7:00 PM Choir	23	24 1:00 PM Set up Turkey & Oyster Dinner 6:00 PM Trunk or Treat @ Salem	25 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Turkey & Oyster Dinner 6:00 PM Trunk or Treat @ Mt. Tabor
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Trunk or Treat	27 7:30 PM Finance Committee	28 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	29 7:00 PM Choir	30	31	

All You Can Eat Fall Turkey & Oyster Dinner

Adults \$17

Children ages 5-12 \$8

Preschoolers eat free!

Bake Table and

Carry Out Meals Available

Time: **1:00 - 5:00 pm**

Date: **Saturday
October 25th**

**Wesley Grove UMC
23640 Woodfield Rd.
Gaithersburg, Md.
(301) 253-2894**

www.wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org



Missions Committee

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Thanks so much to everyone who donated school supplies for the Faith Connections Back to School drive. Missions also contributed \$200 in backpacks and supplies. Some very needy and deserving children will start the school year off with the necessities for a successful one.

Missions also donated \$300 for the food pantry to Damascus Help. The pantry's shelves are always low during the summer because giving is down due to vacations, etc.

We are also donating \$500 to UMCOR for the Ebola crisis. Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak this spring, the United Methodist Church has been active in the relief effort.

August 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	\$540.00
Payroll Taxes	\$63.68
Grass Cutting and Snow Removal	\$650.00
Custodian's Salary	\$480.00
Programs	\$1,079.10
Office Expenses	\$94.73
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,286.53
Miscellaneous Adjustment	\$65.16
Total Expenses	\$9,068.25

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,188.04
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,710.91
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,238.06
Grocery eScrips	\$5.05
Use of Hall	\$350.00
Interest Income	\$6.37
Housing Allowance Reimbursement (June, July and August)	\$2,441.76
Total Income	\$10,940.19
August 1, 2014 Checkbook Balance	\$22,012.10
August 31, 2014 Checkbook Balance	\$23,884.04

Flower Sponsors

The cost for altar flowers increased to \$42.50 as of September 1. Wesley Grove will honor those requests that have been made for this calendar year. After December 2014, we will no longer purchase fresh flowers each Sunday; artificial arrangements will be placed on the altar for each season. In the future, if individuals would like to purchase fresh flowers in honor or memory of family members or friends, those orders can be placed by the individual, who should also make arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to the church. Please see the Worship Committee if you have any questions or concerns. If you have reserved a date for 2014, please be sure to submit payment.

Administrative Council Minutes

September 8, 2014

In attendance: Pastor Linda Yarrow, Mike Sherwood, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Tammy Monarch, Judy Hughes, Doug Gaither, Scott Iles, Andi Brickman, Becky Lewis, Mary Ann Davis, Randy Falk

Devotional: Judy Hughes shared a reading from "Please Give a Devotion" about being good school masters and pupils. She then led a short prayer.

Good News Items: Services were held at churches among the charge during the sum-

mer that allowed us to see their facilities, meet members of their congregations, and have the choir sing. Special Needs friends were treated to a Pizza and Games Night. The women put together a marvelous Father's Day breakfast for the men. Man of the Year was chosen, Joe Mallon. Vacation Bible School was the most fun and best attended in recent history. We collected a huge amount of school supplies and backpacks for the children returning to school so they might have what is necessary to successfully start the school year. July was a busy month with a community parade and charge picnic.

(Continued on page 9)

From Pastor John's Pulpit

Focus on Jesus

Lead me, O Lord in Your righteousness because of my enemies, make Your way straight before my face. (Psalm 5:8)

Have you ever tried to walk a perfectly straight line along a muddy path? It's not as easy as you might think. When walking on a muddy path, most people tend to walk slowly with their heads focusing intensely at their feet. When someone attempts this task with their eyes cast downward, their footsteps become unsteady and crooked. When you walk with your eyes constantly looking down at your feet, you have no idea where you're going. There's no perspective because you cannot see how you fit into the larger landscape.

There's no genuine focus since every step treads over the last step's focal point. You haven't imagined yourself as part of a bigger picture.

The only way to make a purposeful line of progress is to forget about your feet. The key is to look straight ahead and set your focus on a fixed target ahead of you. It can be a fence post, a street sign, or a tree off in the distance. Then, with your eyes fixed on that target, just start walking. When you lock your focus on a target ahead, the immediate problems become stepping stones towards your goal.

The same is true in our lives. If we walk through life concentrating only on what lies ahead of us, we will fail to see the bigger picture and allow little distractions to become major obstacles. But when we look beyond ourselves and fix our thoughts and spiritual eyes on Jesus Christ, we can trust that our paths will be straight and trustworthy, every step of the way. Jesus is our big picture. The ultimate goal of our lives. He is our final prize of all our endeavors. It is my prayer that the Lord will help us to keep our eyes on Jesus at all times no matter what.

Pastor John Ampiah-Addison

(Administrative Council, continued from page 8)

Action Items: Mary Ann Davis made a motion to accept the June 9, 2014, minutes as written and published, Rick Monarch seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Trustees - Andi Brickman: The church insurance policies have been upgraded. The playground equipment has been vandalized. Randy will check on getting some surveillance signs.

Christian Education - Tammy Monarch: Fourteen children attended the first class of the new Sunday school year. Teachers are hoping to have around 20 students and will be looking for more Sunday school teachers.

Finance - Rick Monarch: Charge SPRC meeting is scheduled for September 16 to plan the pastors' salaries for the charge conference reports.

Missions- Jackie Hottinger: The school supply drive was very successful again this year. Faith Connections provided 289 needy students with backpacks, donated supplies to their GED program and after school program, and stocked the local schools with extra supplies for new students. Mission's donations were made to Damascus Help food pantry and the UMCOR Ebola crisis campaign. The Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation received \$125 from the dinner tip jars and a small donation from Missions.

Old Business: Electrical work for the sanctuary is almost finished with the exception of lighting. The lights have been backordered.

New Business: Doug has received a proposal for upgrading the sound system and forwarded the information to the Memorial Committee. Mike is asking the committee chairs to

work with their committees and bring information to the October meeting with their 2015 plans. Randy Falk made a motion to purchase 100 calendars with the church's name imprinted on them. Vote taken and motion was approved.

Kudos from the Chairman of the Board: Kudos to volunteers who worked to make this year's VBS the best ever (Weird Animals and All!) and best attended, thanks from all of the congregation. We all recognize that for many children, their exposure to Christ in VBS is for some the only religious experience they will have; for others, it is the beginning of a lifetime relationship with Jesus. Christ said "Bring the children unto me" and we have done our best to do that. Well done!

Devotions for next meeting will be Becky Lewis.

Next meeting will be Monday, October 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer from Pastor Yarrow at 8:50 p.m.

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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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Every Moment a Song

The Music of Charles Wesley

Fall, 2014 Musical Drama

October 5th
11:00 am &
7:30 pm

Presented by the Wesley
Grove United Methodist
Church Choir
and Players



Enjoy the music of Charles Wesley in a humorous "game show" setting. The finale is a true tribute to one of the greatest hymn writers of all times...
Charles Wesley



**Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: office@wesleygroveumc.org

As a congregation that covenants to walk together in Christ's love, believes that all persons are created equal before God, and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we welcome to our work and worship all regardless of race, gender, age, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic circumstance.

We're on the Web!
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***Fall back into
worship with us!***

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

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

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