

Wesley Grove Messenger

July 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My mom's birthday was this past week. She turned 77 years old, but she will forever be younger than that. She just seems much younger than 77. As the day of her birth was approaching, she texted me and asked that I buy her a movie on iTunes, so she could watch it whenever she wanted. The movie is one of her favorites of all time. I watched it when I was a boy and even re-watched it recently. I enjoyed it as it made me think of the lessons she taught me when I was younger. The movie is *Chariots of Fire*. You may know the story, but I would like to take a moment to remind you. The movie tells the story of two men competing in the Summer Olympics of 1924: one named Harold Abrams and the other, Eric Liddell. Both men are worth knowing and are truly fascinating, but I want to spend this time talking about Liddell.

Eric Liddell was born in China in 1902, the son of Protestant missionaries. He devoted his life to the service of God when he was young, but he also felt "called" to participate in sports. There were many in his life that didn't understand his desire to run fast and preferred that he simply pursue his calling to be a missionary. Liddell rightly reminded them that God gave him a gift, and he could use his gift for the Glory of God and the Up-Building of His Kingdom. He told his critics, "God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure shining with the warmth of the sun upon my face." These eloquent words remind us all that God calls us to serve Him and to look for those things that bring the warmth of God's radiance to our faces when we do them well. One of the best quotes from Liddell is that "we are all missionaries. Wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ, or we repel them from Christ." I challenge you this day to examine yourself as the missionary God has called you to be. Do you bring people nearer to Christ, or do you repel them from Christ?

Liddell certainly brought people nearer to Christ as a missionary. But he also brought them nearer to Christ as a runner. His "best" race was scheduled to be run on a Sunday, but as a strict Scottish Presbyterian, Liddell did not feel he could race on a Sunday. He believed it would violate the commandment to "observe the Sabbath and keep it holy." Out of his devotion to God, Liddell chose not to run on the Sabbath, but rather to run another race on a different day. He was the underdog in this longer race because it was outside his specialty as a sprinter. But he overcame the odds and won the gold medal in record-breaking time. He then said, "The secret of my success over the 400 meters is that I run the first 200 meters as fast as I can. Then, for the second 200 meters, with God's help, I run faster." I love that as a life lesson — when we are taken out of our "lane" or outside of our "comfort zone," we simply need to lean on God to do better than we ourselves are capable. One final quote from Liddell, "Victory over all the circumstances of life comes not by might, nor by power, but by a practical confidence in God and by allowing His Spirit to dwell in our hearts and control our actions and emotions. Learn in the days of ease and comfort and think in terms of the prayer that follows, so that when the days of hardship come, you will be fully prepared and equipped to meet them." Amen and thank you, Eric Liddell, for reminding us that our help comes from God, Our Rock and Our Savior.

"Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out His wonderful plan of love." ~~~~ Eric Liddell

One final note — Many of you probably know that after the 1924 Olympics, Eric and his wife went back to China to serve as missionaries. He served there until he was taken as a prisoner by the Japanese, who captured much of China during WWII. Eric died in Weixian Internment Camp on February 2, 1945.

In God's Peace,
Pastor Nick

Lectioary Readings

July 3, 2022

Pastor Nick, preaching
 2 Kings 5:1-19a
 Psalm 30
 Galatians 6:1-16
 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10, 2022

Pastor Karen, preaching
 Amos 7:7-17
 Psalm 82
 Colossians 1:1-14
 Luke 10:25-37

July 17, 2022

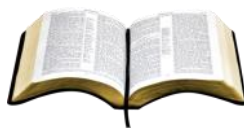
Pastor Nick, preaching
 Amos 8:1-12
 Psalm 52
 Colossians 1:15-28
 Luke 10:38-42

July 24, 2022

Christmas in July
Pastor Karen, preaching
 Hosea 1:2-10
 Psalm 85
 Colossian 2:6-19
 Luke 11:1-13

July 31, 2022

Guest Preacher
(Pastor Nick will be on vacation.)
 Hosea 11:1-11
 Psalm 107:1-9, 43
 Colossians 3:1-11
 Luke 12:13-21



Please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to volunteer to serve as our liturgist during a Sunday morning worship service.



May 2022 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,281.91
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,503.25
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$389.86
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,076.14
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$82.32
Capital Improvement Costs	\$325.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$56.04
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$204.11
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$375.83
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$286.67
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$319.45
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$12.50
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,049.59
In and Out Expenses	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$7,546.59

Income

Weekly Collections	\$10,891.18
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$1,005.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$0.00
Total Income	\$14,000.39

Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair



Everyone loves a parade! And the Celebrate Damascus Parade is returning on Friday, July 8 at 7:00 pm, after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19. Wesley Grove will have a walking unit in this year's parade; requirements include a ready smile, ability to hand out candy and flags, and of course, a good pair of walking shoes! If you'd like to join in the fun, please sign-up in the vestibule **by Sunday, July 3**, so we will have enough time to purchase matching t-shirts for all of our walkers. Even if you aren't able to join our group, please still come out this night to support our church and the rest of the community while enjoying the parade from alongside the route along Ridge Road and Lewis Drive to the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activities Center.

You know what else everyone loves? Christmas! The Worship Committee is once again holding a Christmas in July Worship Service on Sunday, July 24, and the Christian Fellowship Committee will follow up with a Christmas in July Potluck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Break out your favorite holiday side dish or dessert and join our Wesley Grove family for a fellowship meal. The Committee will provide meat, paper goods, and drinks.



The Committee held its summer planning meeting in June and set these dates for the following events in the second half of 2022:

- Fall Community Yard Sale, Saturday, September 17, 9 am–2 pm
- Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic, Sunday, September 18, 11 am
- Holiday Craft Bazaar and Luncheon, Saturday, November 12, 9 am–3 pm

- Church Luncheon, Sunday, November 13, 12:30 pm
- Community Tree Lighting Ceremony, Thursday, December 1, 7:30 pm

The date for our Christmas Caroling Caravan, in cooperation with the community, still remains TBD.

The Christian Fellowship Committee will next meet on Thursday, January 5, to plan events for the first part of 2023(!), including a Soup Sunday sometime during the winter months.

Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

The Missions Committee met in mid-June and decided to serve the local community with its donations during the upcoming summer months instead of sending funding to various organizations around the globe.

The members elected to donate \$200 to the Strawbridge Shrine Association to aid in the upkeep and maintenance of this historical site in New Windsor, MD, and to give another \$200 to Damascus Help to support its funding of local families in emergency situations. The Committee also agreed to help supplement the School Supply Drive sponsored by Faith Connections if we do not collect enough items to fill several backpacks from our church family members.

Wesley Grove will continue cooking and serving at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen located within Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg on fifth Mondays. Our next date to serve is Monday, October 31.

The Committee will hold its next meeting in October on a date still to be determined.

July Birthdays

- 9 Rick Monarch
- 11 Jimmy Johnson
- 15 William Briggs
- 20 Debbie Pesce
- 23 Jim Kemp
- Kay Snouffer
- 25 Skip Ketchum
- 28 Becca Benson



School Supply Drive



This summer, we are again helping needy students within the Damascus Community start the new school year off fresh by donating brand-new school supplies. The list of needed supplies is below. Please place any and all items that you wish to donate in the large blue bins in the church vestibule **by Sunday, August 14**. You may also donate monetarily using PayPal or mailing a check to Faith Connections, P.O. Box 28, Damascus, MD 20872. Be sure to write "School Supply Drive" on the memo line. Thanks to all of you in advance for your much-needed and much-appreciated generosity!

Spiral notebooks
 Composition books
 Pens (blue, black, and red)
 Markers (thin and thick)
 Colored pencils
 Erasers and eraser caps
 Dividers (5-7 subject)
 Pocket folders
 Highlighters
 Dry erase markers

Lined paper
 Pencils
 Crayons
 Scissors
 Glue sticks
 Rulers
 Pencil boxes
 Binders
 Post-It notes
Backpacks



Christmas in July

Sunday, July 24

Worship Service
10 am

Holiday Luncheon
12 pm

Plan to join us to celebrate the miraculous story of Our Savior's Birth and to sing your favorite carols at a time of the year other than December. *After all, why should something so wonderful and so amazing only be shared once a year?!?!?*

Be sure to wear the colors of the season — **red** and **green** — and bells, holly, snowflakes, whatever you have — and come with a festive holiday spirit ready to celebrate Christmas in July!

After the service, we will continue our celebration in the fellowship hall with Christmas Dinner in July. Bring your favorite holiday casserole (*mashed sweet potato, green bean, etc.*), side dish (*savory stuffing or mashed potatoes and gravy*), and/or dessert (*fruit cake, gingerbread cookies, etc.*) to share. Roasted turkey or ham, beverages, and paper products will all be provided. *After all, why should food so delicious and so yummy only be eaten once a year?!?!?*



July 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:00 AM– Worship Service with Communion <i>Wear red, white, & blue.</i>	4 <i>Happy Independence Day!</i> 	5	6	7	8 5:45 PM–Walkers Report to DHS 7:00 PM– Celebrate Damascus Parade	9
10 10:00 AM– Worship Service 11:30 AM–Worship Committee Lunch Meeting	11 7:30 PM– Administrative Council Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 AM– Worship Service	18 <i>Deadline for August Newsletter Submissions</i>	19	20 12:00 PM– Lunch Out at Little Far East II 7:30 PM– Communications Committee Meeting	21	22	23
24 <i>Xmas in July</i> 10:00 AM– Worship Service 12:00 PM– Holiday Dinner <i>Wear red & green.</i>	25 7:30 PM– Board of Trustees Meeting	26	27 3:00 PM– Book Club Meeting at the Joyce King’s Home <i>Pastor Nick on Vacation</i>	28	29	30
31 10:00 AM–Worship Service	<i>Pastor Nick on Vacation</i>	<i>Vacation</i>				

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

As a Church Family that...

- * covenants to walk together in Christ's peace,
- * believes that all persons are created equal,
and
- * affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

We Welcome All to Our Work and Worship,
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic
circumstance.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org



**CELEBRATE
CHRIST'S BIRTH
in the summer!**

Sunday, July 24

**Christmas
Worship Service
and
Holiday Dinner**

Festivities begin at 10 am.

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
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