

# Wesley Grove Messenger

August 2023

From Pastor Nick's Desk...

## Me and Paul

I am sitting in my upstairs office, and I just finished listening to some great music. I wasn't really in a good place, mentally or emotionally, and I just needed to take some time to think. For the past three nights, I have sat in this chair trying to think of something to write. I rarely get writer's block for I rarely am at a loss for words, but this week hasn't been easy. I won't bore you with the details, but I think we all feel like this from time to time.

So, I put on my headphones, turned on the music, and started listening to some wonderful songs that inspire me, hoping that they would give me a few ideas of things to write about. I had my playlist on shuffle, and after a couple of songs, I thought, "Wow, God is good all the time!"

One song that came on is a great song by Willie Nelson called "Me and Paul." It isn't one of his more well-known songs, but it is one of my favorites. This song tells the story of Willie's travels with his friend, Paul, and here are some of the lyrics...

*"It's been rough and rocky travelin', but I'm finally standin' upright on the ground.  
After takin' several readings, I'm surprised to find my mind's still fairly sound.  
We received our education in the cities of the nation, me and Paul."*

Willie goes on to outline the challenging times he has had in his life, but at the end of the song is able to say because of his friendship with Paul, he has overcome the rough and rocky travelin'. I found out tonight that Willie recently wrote a book about his friend, Paul English, who was his drummer for more than 60 years. Paul died in 2020, and that loss has been hard on Willie. The song, "Me and Paul," is a tribute to his friend and the roles he played during difficult times in Willie Nelson's life.

I remember the first time I heard "Me and Paul" — a friend played it for me while we were standing inside a prison cell in Philippi in Northern Greece. About 2,000 years ago, another man named Paul was going through a hard time with a good friend. This Paul and his friend, Silas, had been locked up in this very same cell after they had been severely beaten by a local city official. You may ask what they did while they were in that dark cave of a prison chained to each other? They sang worship songs and praised God all night long. There is another song that I love to hear. It goes like this...

*"Paul and Silas bound in jail all night long (repeat 3x) ...  
That ole jailer locked the jail all night long (repeat 3x) ...  
That ole jail reeled and rocked all night long (repeat 3x) ...  
Saying who shall deliver for me?"*

Paul and Silas were able to overcome the darkness of that Philippian jail because they had God with them. Willie and Paul were able to overcome the challenges they faced because they had the close friendship of each other.

I don't know what you are going through right now. Maybe you are locked in your own jail of doubt, or you are overcome by the rocky road upon which you are traveling. I draw encouragement that God speaks to us reminding us to lean on our friends and to lean on Him in the darkest of prisons and on the rockiest of roads we traverse. I pray that God will give you great friends to help you endure your journey and that your friends will be willing to join you even in the darkness of the cells you find yourself locked in and you'll all sing these words together: "Who shall deliver for me?" Who indeed? Praise be to God for delivering us.

# Lectionary Readings



**August 6, 2023**

*Pastor Nick preaching*  
 Genesis 32:22-31  
 Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
 Romans 9:1-5  
 Matthew 14:13-21

**August 13, 2023**

*Frank Miller preaching*  
 Genesis 37:14, 12-28  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
 Romans 10:5-15  
 Matthew 14:22-33

**August 20, 2023**

*Pastor Nick preaching*  
 Genesis 45:1-15  
 Psalm 133  
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Matthew 15:10-28

**August 27, 2023**

*Pastor Karen preaching*  
 Exodus 1:8-2:10  
 Psalm 124  
 Romans 12:1-8  
 Matthew 16:13-20



## June 2023 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,184.16
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,563.42
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$405.50
Church Secretary's Wages	\$972.23
Organist / Pianist	\$600.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference (for Lay Delegate)	\$947.21
Payroll Taxes	\$74.38
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$124.61
Property Insurance	\$1,694.25
Administrative Expenses	\$136.22
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$390.85
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$296.66
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$332.23
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$12.50
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$945.27
Miscellaneous	\$1,838.13
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,981.54</b>



## Worship Helpers Needed

If you are willing and able to serve as our liturgist or greeter during the worship service on any given Sunday, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or contact Tammy by calling the church office at 301-253-2894 or emailing her at WesleyGrove208@verizon.net. We all appreciate your willingness to serve as we worship and praise Our Great Lord together!

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$3,810.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,232.36
Use of Hall	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,142.36</b>



# Fall Community Yard Sale



**Saturday, September 16**  
**9 am to 2 pm**

**It's not too early to reserve  
your spaces for \$20 each.  
Rental tables are an additional \$5.**

**Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044.**

## August Birthdays

- 1 Henry King
- 3 Chad Kunkle
- 4 Glenn Lewis
- 5 Sam Lynagh
- 6 Elaine Falk
- 9 Ally Lind
- 12 Terri Sherwood
- 13 Mary Ann Davis
- 15 Douglas Green
- 16 Jo Ann True
- 24 Susan Park
- 25 Andrew Wilson
- 27 Sean Falk
- 29 Lincoln Verner



## Food Donations

The Damascus HELP Food Pantry is in need of various food staples this summer. When you are grocery shopping, please consider purchasing a few of these items to donate to the Pantry. Place them in the labelled boxes under the folding table in the vestibule.

- Macaroni and Cheese
- Rice and Pasta — all shapes and sizes
- Canned Pasta (like Beef-a-roni or Spaghetios)
- Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- All Flavors of Jelly and Jam
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables (except for beans and corn, which are plentiful at the Pantry)



## School Supplies



We are continuing to collect school supplies to help fill the backpacks of needy students in the Damascus Community, so that they can start the new school year off fresh and bright! Please place any and all items that you wish to donate in the large blue bins in the church vestibule **by Sunday, August 13**. They will be picked up sometime that week.

You may also donate monetarily by using PayPal or by mailing a check to Faith Connections, P.O. Box 28, Damascus, MD 20872. Please be sure to write "School Supply Drive" on the memo line.

Thanks to all of you who have already shopped and donated as well as to those of you who are still planning to. All donations are greatly appreciated!





## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

A very special birthday is coming up for **Mary Ann Davis**, who will turn 90 on August 13. Please help us celebrate her birthday by sending her a card in care of her daughter, Debbie Speier, at 331 Walnut Hill Drive, Berlin, MD 21811 and letting her know that her Wesley Grove Family is thinking of her and wishing her a fabulous day.

The Committee is continually working to ensure that Wesley Grove has an up-to-date list of members' birthdates, so that we don't miss honoring anyone's 90<sup>th</sup> with either a card shower or an in-person recognition. If you have not already done so, please email birthdates and years of any church member born in 1942 or earlier to Becky Lewis at [becky.lewis20565@gmail.com](mailto:becky.lewis20565@gmail.com).

Although August is a quiet month on the fellowship front, please remember that there are two big events coming up in September — the Fall Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 16 and our Annual Outdoor Worship Service and Charge Picnic on Sunday, September 17. Mark your calendars, start cleaning out your closets, dig out your favorite summer picnic recipes, and contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 if you would like to reserve one or more spaces at the yard sale.

The Christian Fellowship Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, August 30 at 7 pm to plan the remainder of the year. If you have any suggestions, please give them to any member of this committee.

## Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Chair*



Our Sunday School is still on hiatus until this fall when we will resume classes on Sunday, September 24 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We plan to study one of the books of the Bible and the exact book will be announced in September. Please know that new folks are always welcome and invited to join us. We are a group of all ages, educations, experiences, and backgrounds, and all of these differences can make for very interesting, meaningful, and often fun Biblical discussions!



## Annual Charge Conference



Please mark your calendars as our fall date has been set for Saturday, October 28 at 12:30 pm. This conference will once again be held for the entire South Damascus Charge, presented virtually via Zoom, and presided over by an elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.



## Holly Days Craft Bazaar

If you know someone who sews, knits, paints, crafts, works with wood, and/or makes wreaths or floral arrangements, please let them know about our annual craft bazaar coming up on Saturday, November 11 and give them Tammy's number — 301-253-0044 — to call to reserve a space and/or ask any questions.

# August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:00 AM— Worship Service 6:00 PM— Hymn Sing at First Baptist of Damascus	31	1	2 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Tom & Ray's & Visit Roberta Pastor Karen on professional leave	3	4	5  Pastor Karen on vacation
6 10:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion Pastor Karen on vacation	7	8	9	10	11 6:00 PM— Setup for the King/Burdette Re- union	12 9:00 AM— King/Burdette Reun- ion (all day)
13 10:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Last day to bring school supplies.</i>	14	15	16	17	18  <i>Deadline for September Newsletter Submissions</i>	19
20 10:00 AM— Worship Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 AM— Worship Service	28	29 7:00 PM— Lay Leadership Committee Meet- ing	30 3:00 PM— Book Club at the Burkes' Home 7:00 PM— Fellowship Com- mittee via Zoom			

# **Wesley Grove United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

## **As a church family that...**

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

**we welcome to our work and worship all —**  
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,  
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic  
circumstance.

**We're on the Web!**  
[wesleygroveumc.org](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

# **Enjoy These Dog Days of Summer!**



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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