

Wesley Grove February 2017

Messenger

From Pastor Karen...

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Before arriving at the South Damascus Charge, I encouraged church leadership to read, **“The Power of the Other”** by Dr. Henry Cloud, bestselling author and expert on the psychology of leadership. In his book, Cloud posits that **“outstanding performance depends on having the right kind of interpersonal connections to fuel personal growth and minimize toxic associations and their effects.”**

As I studied Cloud’s work, it occurred to me that there are many parallels between his research and the Biblical concept of “Covenant:” The enduring commitment between God and God’s people to live in a loving relationship with and for each other.

In an effort to engage church members and friends in conversations about our relationships with God, one another, and the world around us, I will be leading **COVENANT BIBLE STUDY** on Thursdays beginning February 16 in two locations: Mt. Tabor UMC (10 – 11:30 a.m.) and Wesley Grove UMC (7 – 8:30 p.m.) in the Education Building. The study is based on the understanding that it is through shared reflection and engagement that we can best discover the Bible’s transformative power. It is rooted in the simple idea that we live well when we love well, and underscores the unique relationship that God chooses with us as his people.

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY is broken into three eight-week modules. Each unit emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying pattern throughout the entire Bible. The first module, **“CREATING,”** “discusses the story of our origins in Genesis, the Exodus narrative, the teachings of Moses, and the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, as well as other books from each Testament that focus on the foundation of Christian faith. In doing so, it lays out the framework for a life lived “in concert with God and others.”

“The goal of **COVENANT BIBLE STUDY** is to deepen our understanding of scripture while also helping us respond together in answering God’s call to a faithful life in Jesus. So it embraces a learning experience that builds trust in others and confidence in scripture for each participant — leveraging not just scriptural examples but also personal memories of God’s faithful love.” (covenantbiblestudy.com)

Through sharing and conversation, participants will apply the Bible to their personal story and gain a deeper trust of God, self, and one another. The participant books for the study are \$20.00 each. Please let me know if you would like a copy. If you are unable to pay for a copy, one will be provided for you. Information about **COVENANT BIBLE STUDY** can be found at covenantbiblestudy.com.

I hope to see you in church! **And Bible Study!**

Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

February 5, 2017: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9
 Psalm 112:1-10
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
 Matthew 5:13-20

February 12, 2017: 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

February 19, 2017: 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
 Psalm 119:33-40
 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
 Matthew 5:38-48

February 26, 2017: 8th Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9



Ash
 Wednesday
 Service

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

7:30 pm

at

Wesley Grove United
 Methodist Church

December 2016 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,413.50
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.70
Pastor Benefits	\$1,308.75
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$775.00
Church Secretary	\$997.50
Payroll Taxes	\$76.31
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Handyman	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$1,111.73
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Capital Improvement	\$690.00
Trustees - Building & Maintenance	\$1,986.90
Total Expenses	\$10,649.39

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$8,721.63
Sunday School Collections	\$53.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,815.11
Cell Tower - Sprint - one- time payment	\$5,000.00
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Use of Hall	\$60.00
Housing Allowance	\$269.30
Reimbursement	
Total Income	\$17,271.90

February Birthdays

1	Barbara Kunkle	22	Andi Brickman
9	Namela Miller		Shelby Kepner
13	Daniel Hottinger		Andre Mirani
14	Joel Ketchum	23	Stephen Lewis

Administrative Council Meeting

January 9, 2017

In attendance: Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Pastor Karen Davis, Judy Hughes, Doug Gaither, Randy Falk, Ollie Gray, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis

Devotional: Becky Lewis shared a reading titled "A Taste of Life," on how blending ingredients for recipes is like blending the bitter and sweet of everyday life.

Good News Items: Great turnout for Santa, caroling at the nursing homes was a blessing to many, fabulous cantata, and three church services in 20 hours on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Action Items: Doug Gaither made a motion to accept the November 14, 2016, minutes as written and published, Rick Monarch seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

Committee Reports

Missions – Jackie Hottinger: Holiday food baskets and gifts for four families were very successful. The families were overwhelmed with our generosity and very appreciative. We collected more items than ever before for the nursing homes, which were delivered by the carolers. We will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on January 30. Next Missions Committee meeting to be in March.

Christian Education – Doug Gaither for Tammy Monarch: We will be working on the VBS curriculum, bibles for third graders, and the Education Sunday program.

Finance – Randy Falk: 2017 Weekly giving

needs to be \$1,776 to make the budget.

Christian Fellowship – Becky Lewis: The charge picnic will be in September this year to accommodate vacations and to welcome back students to Sunday School. The Walk for Hunger will be the same day between outdoor worship and the picnic. There will be an Adult Fellowship pot luck dinner at the parsonage on February 25, with a theme of "Color Your World" (bring food of a specific color). WGUMC will have a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, February 28.

SPRC – Ollie Gray: The Charge SPRC is working on pastoral scheduling requests.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Karen: Pastor Karen shared a reading from Isaiah. She will have a sign-up sheet to see if there is enough interest for a Thursday evening Bible study class to start in February.

Old Business: Cemetery signs look great. AED has been purchased for the Education Building with training set for Sunday, January 15. Wi-Fi extender is here for the hall and needs to be hooked up.

New Business: There will be a dinner in March, but it will be Chicken & Ham rather than Turkey & Oysters. The Staley house is empty. Trustees will be getting estimates for work that has to be done to the home (such as electrical, water leaks, bathroom). The parsonage needs a new refrigerator. The church needs a 16 to 18 foot extension ladder to change light bulbs in the high ceilings.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2017 – 7:30 p.m., with devotions by Doug Gaither. Meeting adjourned by Pastor Karen with a prayer at 9:26 p.m.

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Get out your calendars, sharpen your pencils, and prepare for another busy year of "Food, Fun, and Fellowship!" The Christian Fellowship Committee met on January 5 and set the calendar for 2017; a full list of dates follows at the end of this article. However, before you get to the list and start marking up the year, let's go over a few highlights.

We'll start off with February, when Pastor Karen will welcome the adults of the church to the parsonage on Saturday, February 25 as she hosts the Annual Winter Adult Fellowship Potluck at 6 p.m. Our theme this year is "Color Your World," and you'll be asked to sign up in the Greeting Room to bring a dish of a specific color. Let's try to get at least one dish under every color, and see where our imaginations (and maybe some food coloring?) can take us!

Jim and Lois Kemp will host another good meal on Tuesday, February 28, when we hold our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. There is no charge. Also in February, the Daytime Circle will resume its Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, February 1, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building; Ladies Lunch Out will meet at noon on Wednesday, February 15; and the UMM will meet for breakfast at Smoke Hill Barbecue on Monday, January 20 (Presidents Day) at 8 a.m.

Moving on to the rest of the year:

Because of the success of the combined Special Needs/community "Meet and Greet" with Santa, the committee decided to try the same approach to the Egg Hunt set for Saturday, April 8. Our Special Needs friends will be invited to join in the fun from 2 to 3:30 p.m., with the community welcomed from 3:30 to 5. Please note that we have also

established an inclement weather date for the Egg Hunt (Saturday, April 15).

Various scheduling conflicts caused the committee to change the date of the Spring Yard Sale to Saturday, May 6, rather than Saturday, May 13. Due to concern raised about the number of people who missed the 2016 picnic because of vacation schedules, the committee discussed options and agreed to change the date and tie the picnic to the start of Sunday School on Sunday, September 10. The opening session of Sunday School will be followed by outdoor worship (as always, weather permitting), next followed by the traditional "Happy Hour" of snacks, with the added change that the Walk for Hunger will take place then rather than on a Sunday in October. It is hoped that this change will result in greater participation by the Sunday School children. The walk will be followed by lunch, traditional picnic games to include horseshoes (possibly in pick-up, rather than tournament, format), water games (weather permitting), relay races, apple bobbing, and of course, Bible bingo.

We have contacted the committee that organized the Main Street Damascus Christmas event to find out if they have plans to hold it again in 2017. If the answer is yes, we'll explore the possibility of holding the Live Nativity at the same time.

Please note that the calendar may undergo some needed changes and additions throughout the year.

February

1-Daytime Circle Brown Bag (All brown bags are in the Education Building and start at 12:30 p.m.)

15-Ladies Lunch Out (all LLO start at noon; location varies)

19-Coffee and Conversation (Namela & Frank Miller)

20-UMM Presidents Day Breakfast, @ Smoke Hill Barbecue, 8 a.m.

25-Adult Fellowship Potluck @ parsonage, 6 p.m.

28-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, 5 - 7 p.m. (Jim & Lois Kemp)

March

1-Daytime Circle Brown Bag

15-Ladies Lunch Out

18-Games Night @ Monarch home, 7 p.m.

19-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)

April

6-Daytime Circle Brown Bag

8-Egg Hunt, Special Needs 2 -3:30 p.m., community 3:30 - 5 p.m.

9-Coffee & Conversation following both cantata performances (Becky & Brian Lewis)

16-Sunrise Breakfast, following service (Becky & Brian Lewis)

19-Ladies Lunch Out

30-Spring Potluck, noon

May

3-Daytime Circle Brown Bag

4-Yard Sale setup, 7 p.m.

6-Yard Sale, 8 a.m. -2 p.m.

14-Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.

17-Ladies Lunch Out

21-"Caroling" at nursing homes and potluck @ Lewis home, 4 p.m.

June

4-Coffee and Conversation (Education Sunday, host TBD)

7-Daytime Circle Summer Potluck Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

18-Father's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.

21-Ladies Lunch Out

July

7-Celebrate Damascus Parade

19-Ladies Lunch Out

August

16-Ladies Lunch Out

20-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)

September

6-Daytime Circle Brown Bag

10-Charge Picnic and Walk for Hunger, starting with outdoor worship at 11 a.m.

14-Yard Sale Setup, 7 p.m.

16-Yard Sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

20-Ladies Lunch Out

24-Coffee & Conversation following both cantata performances (Becky & Brian Lewis)

30-Blessing of the Animals @ Pet Valu, 10 a.m.

October

4-Daytime Circle Brown Bag

9-UMM Breakfast, @ Smoke Hill Barbecue, 8 a.m.,

15-Coffee and Conversation (host TBD)

18-Ladies Lunch Out

29-Trunk or Treat, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

November

1-Daytime Circle Brown Bag

10-UMM Breakfast, @ Smoke Hill Barbecue, 8 a.m.

15-Ladies Lunch Out

16-Bazaar Setup, 7 p.m.

17-Bazaar Setup, 11 a.m.

18-Bazaar, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

19-Coffee and Conversation (light lunch in Education Building, Evening Circle)

December

2-Meet and Greet with Santa, Special Needs 2 - 3:30 p.m., Community 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

6-Daytime Circle Holiday Lunch @ Golden Bull, 12:30 p.m.

8-Youth Christmas Party (TBD)

10-Coffee & Conversation following both cantata performances (Becky & Brian Lewis)

17-Caroling and dinner @ Monarch home, 4 p.m.

Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

We are currently 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, when we will learn about the happenings on each day of 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 at the Education Building any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. – both young and old are welcome. We would love to have you!

VBS News

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just six months away – therefore, it's time to start planning and preparing for VBS right now. Stay tuned for the exact dates, which will be published in next month's newsletter. This year's quest to know God (and ourselves!) better will take place in "The Factory of Our Maker," which will be filled with conveyor belts, machines, robotic arms, and other gadgets. So, we are asking all of you to search in your basements, garages, attics, and closets for any items that we could use to decorate the hall to look like an old factory building – black cloth, black tarps, pipes, tubes, ducts, pulleys, gears, and other machine parts. We will probably also need lots and lots of aluminum foil. Please let Tammy Monarch know if you have any 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 by calling her at 301-253-0044. We'd love to have you, your creative ideas, your willingness to help, and of course, your love of kids!

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...

- Aluminum cans, foil, and pie plates.
- General Mills Box Tops for Education.t
- Campbell's Labels for Education.
- Tyson's A+ Labels for Education.
- Coca-Cola product bottle caps.
- Small toiletry bottles (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.) from hotels.
- Empty printer ink cartridges.
- Small plastic lids and caps.
- Magazines, paperback novels, board games, and card games.
- Old eyeglass lenses and frames.
- Old blankets, sheets, towels, pillows, and comforters.

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 Monarch. She will be sure that they get to the proper locations within our community.

Also, remember that our **Spring Community Yard Sale** is coming up in early May. Wesley Grove will gladly accept all gently used household items, sporting goods, toys, books, and furniture for resale at this event.

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.

Finance Committee

Randy Falk, Chair

To our most loving and giving congregation of Wesley Grove United Methodist Church:

Last year's weekly giving totals were approximately \$10,870 short of what we needed to meet our budgeted expenses. In 2017, we need \$3.17 more per week than we needed last year. What does all this mean? Simply put, if every household could give \$5 more per week than last year, we will have enough in weekly giving to meet our budgeted expenses and not have to go into our reserves (which are meant to be for dire emergencies). For some, this would be a hardship; for some, maybe impossible. We may even lose giving from some households through different life circumstances, but with your prayers and most generous hearts, I am convinced we can make this most modest goal.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Thanks to all of you, we had a very successful Advent and Christmas season helping local families and very needy nursing home residents. All four of our families were very appreciative of the food and gifts and we collected more items than ever for the nursing home residents. We are so blessed to be able to share and help others.

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Soup Kitchen on January 30!

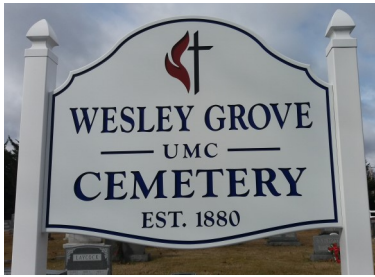
Our first meeting for 2017 will be in March. If you have any 2017 project ideas for Missions, please let us know.



A Huge Thank You goes out to Charlie and Carol Stone for their love and generosity for all they do for the children of the church. We all had a wonderful time at the Rock-and-Jump outing in December.

Love, The Sunday School Children





Cemetery Committee

Jim Kemp, Chair

Have you seen our new cemetery sign? It is given in memory of Bryan Walter and Elizabeth Burdette by members of their families and their friends. This makes our cemetery look more finished and gives it a nice appearance.

We now have cemetery lots available for our church members and their families. The lots are \$1,000 each for a 5'x10" space. This also includes perpetual care. If you are interested in buying a lot, contact anyone on the cemetery committee.

Brian Lewis
Bob Burke

Rick Monarch
Jim Kemp



Notes from Trustees

Church

Please double-check the heat in the church if you are the last to leave. Make sure the heat is turned back and all the lights are turned off. Be sure the door is **LOCKED**; pull on it to make sure it is secure.

Education Building

Please double-check the heat in the Education Building. Be sure to check all four heat zones; they should all be set to 55 degrees when you are finished. Turn off all lights and lock all doors.

Recycle

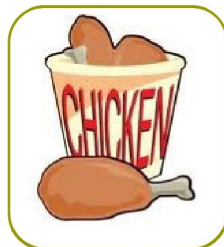
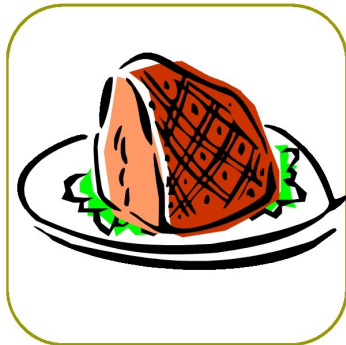
It is great we are recycling, but we must make sure the bins go out on Thursday afternoon or evening or Friday morning. The bins get picked up around noon on Friday.

They then need to be returned to outside the hall kitchen door.





FAMILY STYLE Fried Chicken & Ham Dinner



**Saturday
March 11, 2017
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**\$15 for adults
\$7 for children ages 5 to 12
Preschoolers eat free!**

***Bake Table Available
Carryout Dinners Available***

**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894
wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org**

Our Church Family: Living Legacy



February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir	2	3	4
5 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion) NOON Worship Committee	6	7	8 7:00 PM Choir	9 7:30 PM Communications Committee	10	11
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	13	14	15 NOON Ladies Lunch Out @ Ledo's 7:00 PM Choir	16 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee & Conversation	20 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast @ Smoke Hill Barbecue	21	22 7:00 PM Choir	23 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	24	25 6:00 PM Adult Fellowship @ Parsonage
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	27 7:30 PM Finance Committee	28 5:00—7:00 PM Pancake Supper 7:30 PM Trustees				



**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!
wesleygroveumc.org



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

5:00 pm—7:00 pm

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Road
GaitHERsburg, MD 20882