

Wesley Grove  
December 2017/  
January 2018

# Messenger

## From John's Pulpit

### A Gift We Don't Deserve

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)*

Who is on your gift list this Christmas? Usually, we give gifts to family and friends. We want to buy gifts for people we love and people we care about. We tend to give gifts to those who treat us well, people who are kind and considerate to us. And often, we will give gifts in return for gifts that we have received. Some of us will even buy gifts for our pets.

However, we generally don't buy gifts for our enemies, do we? We don't give a gift to the person who has slandered us in the past year. We don't give a gift to the irate neighbor who never has a kind word to say. We don't give a gift to someone who has tried to run us out of business, nor do we send a gift to the thief who broke into our house last month.

But think about this: When God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, and gave us this ultimate gift, He gave it to us while we were still His enemies. The Bible tells us, "but God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." We did nothing whatsoever to merit or deserve this gift. In fact, what we really deserve is judgment because we all do sin against God. We all deliberately do cross that line.

But the amazing truth of Christmas is that, in spite of our sins, God sent His Son to save us. In that tiny manger in Bethlehem, He gave us a gift we do not deserve. It is my prayer that this Christmas will be the one where we will choose to worship God in the beauty of Holiness, for giving us His Son, the most valuable gift. Blessings to you all.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

*Pastor John Ampiah-Addison*

## Lectionary Readings

### December 3, 2017: 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9  
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Mark 13:24-37

### December 10, 2017: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11  
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
 Mark 1:1-8

### December 17, 2017: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 Psalm 126  
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24, 2017: 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
 Luke 1:47-55  
 Romans 16:25-27  
 Luke 1:26-38  
*Christmas Eve*  
 Isaiah 9:2-7  
 Psalm 96  
 Titus 2:11-14  
 Luke 2:1-20

### December 31, 2017: 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
 Psalm 148  
 Galatians 4:4-7  
 Luke 2:22-40

### January 7, 2018: Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

### January 14, 2018: 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10  
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

### January 21, 2018: 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

### January 28, 2018: 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

## October 2017 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,354.91
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.68
Pastor Benefits	\$928.75
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$1,125.00
Payroll Taxes	\$91.23
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$263.35
Office Expenses	\$23.74
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,006.11
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,082.77</b>

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$9,915.36
Sunday School Collections	\$53.19
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,869.56
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$175.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$268.28
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,634.25</b>

## December Birthdays

1	Ben Allman	14	Chris Lee
3	Cathy Burke	19	Ciarra Crawford
4	Michelle Johnson	20	Ollie Gray
6	Dave Wilson	29	Roberta Grimes
11	Joshua Park	30	Peter Hughes
12	Michael Davis	31	Lorie Falk
	Mollie Davis		

## January Birthdays

8	Gregg Lynagh	16	Brian Lewis
11	Betty Duvall	17	Daniel Briggs
15	Delaney Hagy	20	Lewis Burdette

## Administrative Council Meeting

November 13, 2017

*In attendance: Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Judy Hughes, Randy Falk, Becky Lewis, Andi Brickman, Lewis Burdette, Tammy Monarch, Jim Kemp, Ollie Gray, Jaime Crawford, Sue Ketchum, Debbie Benson, Pastor Karen Davis*

**Devotional:** Pastor Karen shared a poem "Just Now" and led a short prayer.

**Good News Items:** Good Turkey & Oyster dinner with lots of help, St. Martin's soup kitchen went well, Farm Park, yard sale and cantata all had good attendance, good fundraiser serving the Damascus Fire Department banquet, church conference is done, and Joe Laycock Jr. sent a note that the family truly appreciated the church's serving a lunch after his father's funeral service. SPRC has received four applications for the choir director position.

**Action Items:** Tammy Monarch made a motion to accept the September 11, 2017, minutes as written and published, Becky Lewis seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

### Committee Reports

**Christian Education - Tammy Monarch:** Both adult and child Sunday School attendance is down. Hoping to have a youth group program around the beginning of the year.

**Finance - Randy Falk:** Church insurance policies will be switched over by November 20. Copies of the proposed 2018 budget and projected revenue disbursed and discussed. For the Finance Committee, Randy made a motion to accept the 2018 budget of \$151,807.31 as proposed. Vote taken and motion carried.

**Christian Fellowship - Becky Lewis:** Lots going on in the church through the end of the year. We need a commitment from people to present the Live Nativity on December 9.

**Missions - Jackie Hottinger:** We will be sponsoring four families for Christmas gifts and food. Working with the pastors to see what can be collected for the Ghana orphanage.

**Worship - Sue Ketchum:** Several choir members taking turns leading the choir. They have everything planned through the end of December and will meet again to start planning January and early February programs. The CD player and some of the sound equipment belonged to Doug Gaither. We need to evaluate what is needed to be purchased.

**Communications - Jaime Crawford:** Website redesign scheduled to be completed by Josh Park during Thanksgiving week.

**Pastors Report - Pastor Karen:** Church is in a time of transition with the music program changes, and church and Sunday School attendance declining.

**Old Business:** Wi-fi extender needs to be ordered and installed. Jaime to call Verizon about returning the Verizon router that won't work. The church website has current information and should be revamped Thanksgiving week.

**New Business:** Pastor needs a groundskeeper schedule. Need to make sure the tenants are properly disposing of their trash, Rick to call HOC. Huge thank you to Ollie Gray for all of her SPRC work with all of the Charge churches. In January/February Becky Lewis to gather information on the security application her company has designed to see if the Church can benefit from any of the information and also to check into the FEMA Guide for small churches.

Devotions for next meeting will be Jackie Hottinger.

Next meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned by Bob Burke at 9:20 p.m.

A blue-toned illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, three camels are silhouetted against a light blue background. Behind them, a white manger is visible on a hill. The sky is filled with numerous small white stars, and a large, prominent white star with a long vertical tail (the Star of Bethlehem) is positioned on the left side.

# *Live Nativity*

December 9th

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us for A Night in Bethlehem...

***Saturday, December 9th 5:00 - 7:00 PM***

At the Gazebo on the corner of Route 124 & Route 108  
Damascus, MD

Come enjoy a serene & gentle live display  
of the night our Savior Jesus was born.

*Warm drinks & cookies will be served.*

Presented by:

*Wesley Grove United Methodist Church*

## Christmas Luncheon



### Wesley Grove Christmas Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 6

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Mt. Airy Tavern

### Choice of Entrees:

#### **Peruvian Chicken**

Chargrilled half chicken with asparagus and rice

#### **St. Louis Style BBQ Pork Ribs**

Half or Full, Slaw and Tavern Fries

#### **Sesame Ginger Salmon**

Red skinned smashed potatoes with green beans with ginger glaze with sesame seeds

#### **Two Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes**

Handpicked jumbo crabmeat, red skinned smashed potatoes and sweet corn relish

#### **14 oz. Ribeye**

Roasted fingerling potatoes and tomato—  
corn salsa

These entrees are from its dinner menu as the Tavern does not have a banquet menu. Items like beverages and salad are a la carte, and each person will need to calculate his or her own.

youth retreat  
**ROCK**

**January 26-  
28, 2018**

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

This year, our youth will be attending "ROCK," a powerful and fun-filled weekend in Ocean City, Md. The event allows youth and adults to take a step back from their busy lives and learn about the amazing love of Jesus Christ. It is an awesome experience for folks to more fully connect with God and their friends while listening to great bands and speakers. Attendees will leave ROCK renewed and ready to spread the word about God's great love for us. If you are a youth in grades 6 through 12 and would like to attend, email [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org) and keep looking for more information about this activity.

## Missions News

*Jackie Hottinger, Chair*

There is a basket in the greeting room with food tags and gift wish list tags for Christmas baskets for four local needy families, as well as boxes for the donations. Please remember to wrap your gift and attach the tag provided with the person's name on it. Each family has a number. All of the gifts and food items are due back to church by Sunday, December 17. If you would like to donate money for the perishables, gifts, or turkeys, please see Jackie Hottinger.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who staffed St. Martin's Soup Kitchen on October 30 – you did a fantastic job!

Thank you to everyone who participates in any and all ways in our mission projects throughout the year. We have a wonderful congregation that is always willing to help others. It makes us appreciate how blessed we all are.

## Holiday Gift Shop and WG Ornaments

*Tammy Monarch*

Thanks to everyone who contributed, browsed and shopped at our Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, November 18! We sold a lot of gift baskets, ornaments, holiday linens, cookie and soup mixes, snowmen, and Christmas trees that day, but of course, we still have a good amount of wonderful items left. So, as the month of December rolls along and you realize that you need additional gifts for friends, co-workers, and family members, please know that our Holiday Gift Shop will be open each Sunday right after our worship service and also at various times throughout the month when I am available to be there. If you would like to purchase something and these days/times are not convenient for you, please call me at 301-253-0044, and I can arrange to meet you at our Education Building.

In addition, I want to make sure that you all know about and have seen our Wesley Grove UMC Christmas Ornaments, which are new for 2017. These white porcelain disks are printed with a color photograph of our sanctuary and come in black velvet bags with gold cords for hanging. They make very special gifts for all members of our WG family, but we only have a limited number, so be sure to purchase yours now. The cost is \$8, and they are available in our Holiday Gift Shop.



## Trustee Updates

*Andi Brickman, Chair*

Please take note:

We have noticed that some people have been dumping their trash in our church dumpster. Please **DO NOT** do this.

You may have noticed numbers on the doors at the church and hall. Schools and now churches are putting numbers on all doors. These provide help to emergency units who come to help us. They will also help us give directions to people coming to our event.

Church: Ramp doors #1  
Glass doors #2  
Rear cemetery door #3

Hall: Door facing church #1  
Woodfield Road #2  
Courtyard #3  
Kitchen right of A/C #4  
left of A/C #5  
Back play yard #6

Please be sure all doors are locked when not in use.

### No Newsletter in January

There will be not be a January issue of *The Messenger*. Please listen carefully to announcements in church and read the bulletin calendar, as more dates may be added.



## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

Santa Claus is coming to town, and he's bringing a full schedule of December fellowship events. So get out your calendars and get ready to spend the Christmas season engaged in fun **and** meaningful activities as we spread the good news of our Savior's birth.

Santa Claus indeed does come to town on Saturday, December 2, to start things off. He will greet all of his special needs friends from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Education Building, and the community's children from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Everyone will receive a free photo to mark the occasion, and there will be crafts and refreshments as well. In addition, the Holiday Gift Shop will be open.


The Daytime Circle hosts its annual Christmas luncheon at Mt. Airy Tavern on Wednesday, December 6, at 12:30pm. If you made a reservation, don't forget to attend this wonderful fellowship meal.

We'll go out into the community to share the Christmas message on two consecutive days, December 9 and 10. On Saturday, December 9 (weather permitting), we will put on a Live Nativity as part of the Downtown Damascus celebration. This tableau may be the only time some individuals are exposed to the true Christmas story during the season, which makes its presentation especially important and meaningful. On this day, we will meet at the Education Building to assemble props, costumes, tables, chairs, refreshments, lighting, sound system, and so on at 3 p.m. Then, we will drive all of these materials and supplies to Damascus Park about 4 p.m. where we will set up our stage and scenery. We need people to greet, sing, bake, and portray the figures of the Nativity in order to

make this event a success. Please let either Becky or Tammy know if you can help with any or all parts of this exciting and wonderful event, which has now become an annual tradition. Please come support this important outreach event.

Then, on Sunday, December 10, we will hold our annual Christmas caroling outing, visiting Pleasant View and Lorien in Mt. Airy as well as some of our own shut-ins and folks needing a little extra holiday cheer. Please meet in the Education Building parking lot at 4 p.m. to carpool. When we've finished, the committee will provide a fellowship meal at the home of Rick and Tammy Monarch, 9009 Kimblehunt Drive. Please sign up in the greeting room to give our hosts an idea of how many to expect. We'll also be collecting toiletry items (hotel size are best) and adult diapers to donate to the residents at Pleasant View; those items can be placed in the greeting room as well, or just bring them along when you come to sing!

On Thursday, January 4, 2018, the Christian Fellowship Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. to make plans to do all of this and more all over again next year! If you have ideas or suggestions for the committee, please let any member of the committee know: Becky Lewis, Brian Lewis, Tammy Monarch, Sally Swearingen, Carol Stone, Mary Jane Walter, Allan Walter, Terri Sherwood, Kris Kepner, and Namela Miller. One event that will take place in January will be a Soup Sunday luncheon with a special guest of honor: Betty Duvall, who turns 90 on January 11! Stay tuned in church for more details and a firm date. Also, the UMM will meet for breakfast at Smoke Hill BBQ on Monday, January 15 (Martin Luther King Day), and Ladies Lunch Out will meet on Wednesday, January 17, at noon, at the new Peruvian chicken restaurant in Damascus.



Come join us for cookies, milk  
and cocoa, and an opportunity  
to meet **the real Santa!**

**Saturday, December 2**  
**Special Needs 2 - 3:30 pm**  
**Community 3:30 - 5 pm**

**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church**

**Fellowship Hall**

**23614 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882**

**301-253-2894**

**[www.wesleygroveumc.org](http://www.wesleygroveumc.org)**





## CHRISTMAS CANTATA



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017  
11:00AM AND 7:30PM**

**BY: WESLEY GROVE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
23640 WOODFIELD ROAD  
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20882  
[www.wesleygroveumc.org](http://www.wesleygroveumc.org)**

### ***The Gift Goes On***

The Wesley Grove Choir presents "The Gift Goes On," a traditional Christmas cantata, on Sunday, December 17, during the worship service at 11 a.m. and in an encore performance at 7:30 p.m. You'll hear some familiar songs and some not-so-familiar ones as the choir and the narration take you through the Christmas story and remind you that although Advent and Christmas come to an end, the Gift that God gave us "goes on and on" throughout every day of the year. Please plan to come hear one (or both!) performances. Refreshments will be served following each event.

## Christian Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

All fall, we have been reading, studying, and discussing Heaven and what the Bible has to tell us about it. We've read passages from both the Old and New Testaments that explain what Heaven will look like, feel like, and sound like. We have also discussed who we will find there, how our bodies will look, and what we will do for work and play. Please feel free to join us any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and participate in our readings and conversations. We'd love to have you!

Throughout this Advent Season, we will also focus on the feelings we experience during the days and events leading up to the birth of Jesus, including the hope of what's to come as we prepare for our Messiah, and the peace, love, and joy that come with His arrival. Each Sunday, we will light an additional Advent candle to recognize these feelings we have as we journey together toward our Savior's birth: hope, peace, joy, and love.

On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> our Sunday School family will enjoy a Christmas breakfast together during Sunday School. We ask that each family bring something to contribute to our meal. We could use a couple of breakfast casseroles, some fruit, juice, and a mixture of muffins, bagels, and/or donuts.

After we eat and enjoy each other's company, we will work together to prepare personal health care packages for many of our friends at Pleasant View Nursing Home. We are asking all Sunday Schoolers to bring toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, combs, socks, mouthwash, chapstick, etc. on or before this day. We could also use some candy, magazines, decks of cards, puzzle books, etc.

to add a little fun to these packages. If anyone else in the church would like to contribute to this very special mission project, please see Jackie Hottinger's lists in the vestibule, and please have all items to the church by that morning at 10 a.m. so that we can prepare these packages for delivery that afternoon during our Annual Christmas Caroling event starting at 4 p.m. Thanks so much in advance – it is always such a wonderful feeling when we deliver such meaningful gifts to folks that really need them.

Over the last weekend in January, our youth and their leaders will be attending the Annual BWC ROCK Youth Retreat at the Convention Center in Ocean City. We would love to take all of our middle and high school teens for a full weekend of dynamic speakers, wonderful contemporary Christian music, and a whole lot of fun! So, if you have not yet talked to Pastor Karen or me about participating, please do so right away as we have plans to make, tickets to buy, and drivers, meals, and housing to arrange. Sign up now and don't miss this amazing, and possibly life-changing, event – I guarantee you will have a fabulous time!

### **Bishop Easterling will meet with Central Maryland District Clergy & Laity on Monday, December 11, 2017**

The Clergy Session will take place from 2 - 4 p.m.

The Laity Session will take place from 6 - 8 p.m.

The location is to be determined. We will update you as soon as the location has been set. Please put this date on your calendars! Meals will not be provided. We will have light snacks and beverages. Come with questions, insights, ideas, and more!

# Christmas Poinsettias

Our church sanctuary will once again be decorated with lots and lots of beautiful poinsettias on Sunday, December 17, the day of our Christmas Cantata. If you would like to purchase one or more in honor or memory of loved ones, please use the form below. We will try to offer a choice of both red and white flowers, and the cost will remain at \$10 per plant. Please have all orders and money (either cash or a check made out to the church) turned in to our church office by Sunday, December 10.



## *POINSETTIA ORDER FORM*

**Deadline for Ordering: December 10**

**\$10 Each**

**Red or White available**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost : \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place order forms in basket on the table  
in the Greeting Room or mail to:  
Wesley Grove UMC  
23640 Woodfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Flowers will be available after the Christmas  
Eve Service. Please remember to take yours  
home to enjoy for the holidays.

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Meet & Greet w/Santa 2-3:30pm—Special Needs 3:30-5pm—Community
3 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	4	5 6:45 PM Lions Club	6 12:30 PM Daytime Cirele Holiday Luncheon @ Mt. Airy Tavern 7:00 PM Choir	7	8	9 3:00—5:00 PM Set-up 5:00 - 7:00 PM Live Nativity 7:00—8:00 PM Clean-up
10 9:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 Caroling & Dinner	11	12	13 7:00 PM Choir	14	15	16
17 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Cantata 7:30 PM Cantata	18	19 6:45 PM Lions Club	20 7:00 PM Choir	21	22	23
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Family Service 11:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Office Closed</b>						
31 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship						

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir	4 7:30 PM Christian Fellowship	5 7:30 PM Christian Fellowship	6
7 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	8 7:30 PM Administrative Council	9	10 7:00 PM Choir	11	12	13 9:00 AM Take down sanctuary decorations
14 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	15 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast @ Smokehill	16	17 NOON Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	18	19 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	20
21 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	22 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	23 7:30 PM Finance Committee	24 7:00 PM Choir	25	26	27 <b>ROCK-Youth Retreat in Ocean City</b>
28 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship <b>ROCK</b>	29	30	31 7:00 PM Choir			

 **Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church**  
Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [office@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto: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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)



***Join us for  
Christmas Eve Services***

***Family Service  
11:00 am***

***Candlelight Service  
11:00 pm***

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

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