

Wesley Grove  
February 2018

# Messenger

## From Pastor Karen...

### *How Can I Keep From Singing?*

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.*

*Refrain:*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]*

*What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]*

You may not recognize the name Rev. Robert Lowry, but you will certainly recognize some of his musical compositions: *Shall We Gather at the River?*, *I Need Thee Every Hour*, and *We're Marching to Zion*, to name a few. While preparing for a funeral, I stumbled across his piece, *My Life Flows On* in *The Faith We Sing* and the words of this lament resonated with my grieving spirit.

It's simply hard to imagine life without music. It's hard, too, to imagine the church without music. Which makes me wonder: What purpose does singing serve in our corporate worship?

Singing allows us to lament: To cry out to God as we testify to God's abiding presence despite all apparent evidence to the contrary. Lament, in the biblical tradition, always ends with a vow to praise God for God's faithfulness.

Singing helps us strive for justice: God stands in solidarity with the oppressed, so much so that God in Christ *becomes* one of the oppressed. When we sing of Jesus' crucifixion, we blend our voices with those who have been killed in acts of senseless violence because of the color of their skin or the person they love or the faith they practice.

Singing also celebrates: Even in the darkness of injustice that infuses our world and dominates our headlines, we are a people who know that Good Friday must ultimately give way to Easter. When we sing the hymns and spiritual songs collected in the pages of our hymnal, we proclaim the gospel — the good news that is for all people and *especially* for those whose voices have historically been silenced and those whose lives society has said don't matter. In other words, we don't sing for our own sake, but we sing for the *sake of the world*.

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia! (Fred Pratt Green, UMH #68).*

Keep singing, my friends.

Peace, *Pastor Karen*

## Lectionary Readings

### February 4, 2018: 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31  
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
 Mark 1:29-39

### February 11, 2018: Transfiguration Sunday

*Boy Scout Sunday*  
 2 Kings 2:1-12  
 Psalm 50:1-6  
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
 Mark 9:2-9

### February 14, 2018: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
 Psalm 51:1-17  
 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10  
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 18, 2018: 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17  
 Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Mark 1:9-15

### February 25, 2018: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
 Psalm 22:23-31  
 Romans 4:13-25  
 Mark 8:31-38



Wednesday,  
 February 14, 2018

7:30 pm  
 at

Wesley Grove United  
 Methodist Church

## December 2017 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,354.91
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.68
Pastor Benefits	\$928.75
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$123.47
Church Secretary	\$997.50
Payroll Taxes	\$80.90
Miscellaneous	\$450.00
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$2,009.54
Office Expenses	\$34.00
Trustees - Maintenance	\$4,678.28
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,947.03</b>

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$10,410.00
Sunday School Collections	\$38.21
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,869.56
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$2,200.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$340.00
Rental Property Loan Payback	\$10,000.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$268.28
(From other churches)	
Pastor Medical & Pension Reimbursement	\$889.16
(From other churches)	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,368.07</b>

## February Birthdays

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

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

Snap out of the winter doldrums on Saturday, February 17, at 6 p.m. when we hold our annual adult winter potluck. We have a theme – favorite foods of the Presidents, in honor of Presidents' Day – we just need a host family willing to welcome members of their church family bearing some rather interesting dishes. Please let Becky Lewis know if you're willing to host. And please check the sign-up sheet in the greeting room and make your selection early!

You can spend even more of that three-day weekend sharing food and fellowship with your church family, as Namela and Frank Miller host Coffee and Conversation following the service on Sunday, February 18, and the United Methodist Men meet for breakfast at Smoke Hill BBQ on Presidents' Day itself, Monday, February 19, at 8 a.m. After a day off to "rest," Ladies Lunch Out takes place on Wednesday, February 21, at noon. And don't forget the Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch at the Education Building earlier in the month on Wednesday, February 5, at 12:30 p.m.

The Christian Fellowship Committee met on Tuesday, January 8, to put these dates and many more on the calendar for the year. Some highlights include:

- Mothers Day Breakfast, Sunday, May 13, 9:30 a.m.
  - Summer Potluck Lunch (Jim Burns' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday), Sunday, June 10, following service
  - Fathers Day Breakfast, Sunday, June 17, 9:30 a.m.
  - Summer Sing at local nursing homes, Sunday, August 19 or 26 (depending on date of summer dinner)
  - Charge Picnic and Walk for Hunger, Sunday, September 9, following service
  - Fall Yard Sale, Saturday, September 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Holly Days Crafts Bazaar, Saturday, November 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - Meet and Greet with Santa, Saturday, December 1, 2 to 5 p.m.
  - Caroling and Dinner at the Monarch home, Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m.
- And one brand new event we want to especially highlight: Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. We'll be lighting the BIG pine tree in front of the Education Building and inviting some community groups to join us in singing carols, reading the Christmas story, and sharing some holiday treats. We're collecting strings of the larger lights, so if you have some you are no longer using, or you run across them cheap at a yard sale, please give them to Tammy Monarch.
- Special Needs Easter Party and Community Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 24, 2 p.m.
  - Spring Sing at local nursing homes on Sunday, April 15, 4 p.m.; potluck dinner at the Lewis home to follow
  - Spring Yard Sale, Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Christian Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

### **Sunday School**

Ever really thought about Heaven, and what it might be like??? Well, if so, you are in luck! Each week at Sunday School, we are continuing our study of Heaven and what the Bible has to tell us about it. Our readings and follow-up discussions are interesting, informative, and thought-provoking. Please feel free to come and join us at the hall any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. – both young and old are welcome. We would love to have you!

On Sunday, February 25, all of our Sunday Schoolers will once again be joining together in a fellowship breakfast. Please consider what you would like to bring and let Tammy know by the 18. After we eat, we will fill gallon-sized zip-lock bags with simple, non-perishable meals for the homeless. These filled bags will then be given out to members of our congregation to keep in our cars to give to people in need. As you are driving around and are asked for help, you can give that person a greeting, a meal, and of course, a smile to help brighten their day.

For the next three weeks, we will be collecting these items at the hall. Please place them in the specially marked boxes in the wooden chapel room.

- Individual-sized cans of chicken and tuna (Be sure they have pull-tabs.)
- Individual packages of peanut butter or cheese crackers
- Boxes of granola bars
- Assorted fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, pears, pineapple, etc.)
- Assorted pudding cups that do not need refrigeration
- Snack-sized packages of cookies, chips, crackers, etc.
- Cases of water bottles
- Individual packages of tissues

## VBS

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 – they will be published in next month's newsletter.

This year's quest to know God (and ourselves!) better will take place while we are "Shipwrecked with Jesus" on a deserted island. 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 island – palm trees, sand, waterfalls, coconuts, seashells, fish, etc. etc. etc... Please let Tammy 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
- 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 from Bottles

and Jars

- Plastic Containers with Lids for leftovers at the hall
- Magazines, Paperback Novels, Board Games, and Card Games
- Used Eyeglass Lenses and Frames
- Used Blankets, Sheets, Towels, Pillows, and Comforters
- Used Greeting Cards
- Strands of Larger Bulb Christmas Lights

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. 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

## 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.



A Keeping Seniors Safe presentation will be held at Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 18 at 12:30 p.m.

The presentation will last approximately one hour and is open to any resident of Montgomery County (recommended age 18 and above). There is no charge.

*Reservations are requested* and need to be made by Sunday, March 11.

“Keeping Seniors Safe” is a program that has been developed in conjunction with the Volunteer Resources Section of the Montgomery County Police Department. The KSS program was established to increase awareness of safety issues within the senior community and to provide guidance and resources to seniors in regard to these issues.

- Personal safety
- Fraud and scams
- Identity theft identification and prevention
- Who to call for emergency and non-emergency needs

To reserve a place, please contact Jane King at 301-253-3471 or email at [anewdayfarm@aol.com](mailto:anewdayfarm@aol.com)

**FRIED CHICKEN AND  
MEATLOAF  
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT  
BUFFET DINNER**



**Saturday  
March 10, 2018**

**1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**\$17 for adults**

**\$8 for children ages 5 to 12**

**Age 4 and under free**

***Bake Table Available***

***Carryout Dinners Available***

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

23640 Woodfield Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20882

301-253-2894

[wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	5	6 6:45 PM Lions Club	7 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir	8	9	10
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	12	13 6 PM Pancake Supper @Mt. Tabor	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15	16 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	17 6:00 PM Presidents Potluck
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee & Conversation	19 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast @ Smoke Hill Barbecue	20 6:45 PM Lions Club	21 NOON Ladies Lunch Out @ Applebee's 7:00 PM Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM Sunday School Breakfast & Mission Project 11:00 AM Worship	26 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	27 7:30 PM Finance Committee	28 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.



**Ash  
Wednesday  
Service**

**February 14, 2018**

**7:30 p.m.**

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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