

Wesley Grove
April 2018

Messenger

From Pastor Karen...

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Easter is almost here. In a few days only remnants of the holiday will be left around your home: A headless chocolate Easter bunny? A half-eaten, coconut-filled egg? A few sticky peeps poking out of the cellophane package? Some jelly beans perhaps?

We live in a culture that prefers the instant gratification of sweets and chocolate over the confusion of an empty tomb. Yet the season of Easter gives us the opportunity to stand before the empty tomb with the pressing questions of life and its meaning: Why am I here? What is life all about? Is there a purpose? What happens when I die? Why is there suffering in my life? Why is there suffering in the world? Why do people hate? Why do I hate? Where is God in all of this? Why is the tomb empty? If Jesus is raised, why don't people believe it?

The questions seem unending and the search for answers takes us beyond simplicity. The disciples believed, but they did not understand. Are we the same? The empty tomb, the church, the scriptures, and faith are all places of mystery as we encounter the divine.

On April 20 at 7 p.m., the Education Committee will present the film, *The Shack*, in the Education Building. Based on *The New York Times* best-selling novel, *The Shack* is an artistic representation of a deeply personal story that explores encountering God's love. It raises provocative questions and points us toward the path for healing out of impossible tragedy.

The Shack applies to us all, whether we have endured terrible tragedy and pain or the more common struggles of everyday life. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, we hope you will join us as we continue to explore the questions of Easter.

Peace,

Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

April 1, 2018: Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-8 or Mark 16:1-8

April 8, 2018: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 15, 2018: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 22, 2018: 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

April 29, 2018: 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

February 2018 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,204.75
Pastor Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor Salary	\$385.96
Pastor Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$1,162.50
Choir Director	\$750.00
Payroll Taxes	\$63.56
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$540.00
Programs	\$104.82
Office Expenses	\$37.50
Trustees - Maintenance	\$3,282.26
Total Expenses	\$9,545.51

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$4,123.00
Sunday School Collections	\$28.60
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,869.56
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,393.45
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$4,000.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Loan Payback	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$300.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursement	\$583.34
(from other churches)	
Total Income	\$13,297.95

Easter Flowers

Worship Committee

Thank you to everyone who purchased the beautiful flowers that will adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning. If you paid for flowers and cannot take them with you that day, please let Tammy Monarch know so that you can pick them up at another time. All of these flowering plants are perennials and need to be planted outside in your yards to continue to bloom year after year.

April Birthdays

1	Randy Falk	16	Sally Swearingen
3	Peggy Zirkle	17	Mike Sherwood
	Danny Allman		Kenny Benson
5	Katie (Ketchum)	19	Cara Lynagh
	Vitullo	23	Michael Mirani
8	Judy Briggs	25	Scott Iles
	Tyler Mirani	28	Kris Kepner

Administrative Council Meeting Report

March 12, 2018

In attendance: Jaime Crawford, Becky Lewis, Jim Kemp, Karen Davis, Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone, Charlie Stone, Judy Hughes, Debbie Benson, Mike Sherwood

Devotional – “In All We Do” by Jacqui Richardson, read from the book *Just for Today* by Carol Stone.

Prayer Requests – Continue prayers for the Diddles, for Jane Shaub, for Mary Jane Walter, and for our missionary, Jessi Wagner.

Good News Items – Chicken and Meatloaf Dinner brought in approximately \$1,600. Tammy and Rick Monarch have cleaned up the back storage room; Tammy has also organized the history display items. Due to the less-than-average snowfall, we have saved money on the snow removal budget. Ally Lind has started as our new music director; her husband, Matt, is playing the piano for rehearsals and for services.

Action Items – Tammy made a motion to accept the January 29, 2018 minutes as written and published, Becky seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

Committee Reports

Trustees – Mike Sherwood: To-do list for parsonage is done. Plans are underway to replace the double sink in the main kitchen with a triple sink. HOC will inspect the rental house on March 21. The porch light at the church has been repaired. Consideration is being given to cutting down the large pine tree in front of the Education Building and replacing it with a 15- to 20-foot tree more suitable for the tree lighting planned for December. Other maintenance under way includes having the swing set refurbished and the large crepe myrtle tree pruned significantly. Also, some damage is being done to the Education Building entrance by school bus traffic, and repairs may need to be made.

Christian Education – Tammy Monarch: Sunday School attendance remains low, although it increases when there is breakfast and a missions project. As a side note, “care” packages from the recent project to bag non-perishable meals for the homeless remain available in the Greeting Room. Plans for Vacation Bible School are coming along well. The committee is sponsoring a field trip to the new Museum of the Bible on a Saturday in April, date to be determined.

Finance – Debbie Benson: Focus will be a stewardship fundraiser for the fall.

Worship – Sue Ketchum: Although Sue could not attend, she submitted highlights to Bob as follow:

- Baby grand piano in the sanctuary and rehearsal piano in the choir room tuned at no charge by one of our church friends, Jack Ahalt.
- The choir is working hard on cantata music as well as learning proper singing techniques.
- The Resurrection Cross will be set up for decorating with donated flowers on Easter.
- Mary Ann will be away April 15 and 22; Pastor Karen will ask Eugenia from Salem if she is available to substitute.
- The Celebrate Damascus Parade is Friday, July 13.
- The order of worship will change back to Doxology, Announcements, Hymn, Benediction.
- Pastor Karen will look into having a group of children ages 5-20, the PSALTY Group, from one of her previous pastoral assignments perform at Wesley Grove sometime this spring.
- Plans for celebrating special Sundays were discussed (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Pentecost with a birthday party for the church on May 20, and Christian Education Sunday).

Communications - Jaime Crawford: Josh continues to work on fine-tuning the website; Jaime now has the capability to add announcements, such as the one for the recent dinner, and have them automatically expire when the date is past. Josh has the components for the Wi-Fi extender and is working on installation.

Staff Parish – Charlie Stone: Tammy reported that she had drafted a contract for Ally, which both parties signed. The two met recently for an initial review, and will meet again at the 3-, 6-, and 12-month marks.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Karen: The memorial service for Allan Walter went well. The family was very pleased with everything.

New Business – Becky said there will be an announcement in the April newsletter asking for volunteers to work on the safety and security plan. The Boy Scouts plan a clean-up day for the church grounds later in March.

Next meeting: Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. Devotions: Tammy. Meeting adjourned by Bob at approximately 9 p.m.

Movie Night

Friday, April 20th at 7:00pm
In the Education Building

Sponsored by the Education Committee



BASED ON THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

THE SHACK

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

Cooked-To-Order Breakfast Sandwiches
Grilled Lunch Platters & Bake Sale

Rent a Space for ONLY \$15
Use of church table an additional \$5

Benefit the Church And Your Closets!

Call 301-253-0044 to reserve your space.



9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Dear Wesley Grove Family,

We send out heartfelt thanks for all your loving kindness, sympathy, and support on the death of Kenneth Allan Walter, who was first a cherished son and brother, then a loving husband and father, grandfather, great-grandfather, "Pappy," and an active, grateful Wesley Grove UMC member for more than 53 years.

We feel blessed by your encouraging cards and messages, condolence visits, variety of foods, and lovely flowers as well as memorial donations to Wesley Grove Church.

We also appreciate the faithful support of Pastor Karen and Pastor John who prayed with all our family at the hospital and conducted an inspiring celebration of Allan's life that included an amazing anthem by our choir, Allan's favorite hymns, an uplifting message, and sharing by our beloved daughter and grandchildren and by caring Wesley Grove family members, too.

Thank you again for the most bountiful and delicious funeral luncheon in recent memory!

With thanksgiving and prayers for God's blessings
on all of you always,
Love, Mary Jane and Family



Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Start your Easter celebration early – early in the morning, that is – by participating in our Sunrise Service marking our Savior's resurrection, then come join your church family in a fellowship breakfast immediately following the service. The service takes place at our outdoor pavilion at 6:30 a.m. on Easter morning, April 1, and Brian and Becky Lewis will serve breakfast in the Education Building immediately following.

We'll gather for another fellowship meal two weeks later, on Sunday, April 15, following our annual Spring Sing at the Mt. Airy nursing homes, Pleasant View and Lorien. Everyone from the church is welcome to join in this outreach event; superior singing ability is not required, just bring your best smile and the love of Christ in your heart. We will meet at the Education Building at 4 p.m. to form carpools, and after we've finished singing, we will gather at the Lewis home, 23409 Woodfield Road, for a potluck dinner. As always, our friends at Pleasant View will appreciate donations of toiletries and adult diapers.

Also on the April calendar, the Brown Bag Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, April 4, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building, and Ladies Lunch Out will meet at noon on Wednesday, April 18.

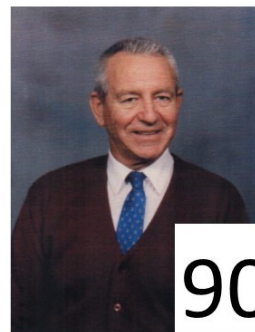
It's not too soon to begin cleaning out your closets in preparation for the Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 12. Please contact Tammy or Rick Monarch (301-253-0044) if you would like to reserve a space for just \$15. We'll also be looking for help moving tables for setup and takedown, and cooking food during the event. Donations for the bake table are also welcome.

Planning for Emergencies

Wesley Grove is in the process of developing a resource plan for all types of emergencies (medical, fire, weather, etc.). If you have any of the following skills, and are willing to make yourself available in the event of an emergency, please contact Becky Lewis (240-338-3211):

- CPR training.
- First aid training.
- Advanced medical training (nurse, EMT, etc.)
- Counseling training.

Also, please let Becky know if you are interested in meeting with a small group to help develop the plan.



Join us for a Party

90 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF

Miel Linthicum

Saturday, April 14th
Open House: 1 to 5 pm
9209 Gue Road, Damascus
Please RSVP to Mary Emma
at 301-253-2038
by April 5, 2018.

Refreshments served with ice cream for dessert!
God has given us all we need, so no gifts necessary.

Bring a chair! Send a card!
Both will be greatly appreciated!

Christian Education News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

This month, we will study the following topics in Sunday School:

- The Easter Story.
- The Resurrection.
- Symbolism of Different Crosses.
- Taking Care of God's Earth.
- The Ten Commandments.

As always, please feel free to come and join us anytime – both young and old. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the hall, and we would love to have you!

VBS News

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just three months away. It will be held during the week of July 16-20 from 5:30-8:30 in the evenings. Therefore, it's time to mark your calendars, hold that week, and start planning and preparing for VBS right now.

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, thatched material, burlap, woven mats, 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!

Museum of the Bible Field Trip

We will host a church field trip to the brand-new Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, on Saturday, April 14. This museum just opened in November and is dedicated to teaching all people about the amazing stories, people, wonders, and miracles included in this best-selling book of all time. The museum is free, but a donation of \$15 per adult and \$10 per child is suggested. If you or someone in your family has already signed up on the sheet in the Greeting Room, you will be getting a phone call from Tammy soon with all the details. If you are not signed up, but would still like to join us, please call Tammy right away at 301-253-0044. We would love to take a large group to this wonderful new attraction in DC!

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.

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Easter</i> 6:30 AM Sunrise Service (breakfast following) No Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	2	3 6:45 PM Lions Club	4 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	9	10	11 7:00 PM Choir	12	13	14 Museum of the Bible Field Trip
15 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Spring Sing	16	17 6:45 PM Lions Club	18 NOON Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Education Movie Night, <i>The Shack</i>	21
22 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	23 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	24 7:30 PM Finance Committee	25 7:00 PM Choir	26	27	28
29 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	30 Soup Kitchen 1:00 PM Scholarship Application Deadline					

 **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

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, March 29 at 6:00 pm at Salem UMC

Good Friday Service
Friday, March 30 at 7:30 pm at Wesley Grove UMC

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 1 at 6:30 am
at Wesley Grove UMC pavilion next to ballfield
Breakfast following

Traditional Easter Worship Service
Sunday, April 1 at 11:00 am at Wesley Grove UMC

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

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