

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

November 2018

From Pastor John's Pulpit...

Put Your Faith Into Action

“So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God...”
(Romans 10:17)

From the honest responses given by participants on Tuesday mornings and evenings during our various Bible studies on the Books of Ephesians and Galatians, and comparing notes with the Book of Romans, I have information to share with all of you. I am putting these principles into practice myself and they are yielding results.

Faith is belief plus action. Faith is a living, restless thing. Faith is something that moves; it simply cannot be inoperative.

We have to use our faith. In fact, faith is not unlike muscle. The way to build up muscle is through using it. You effectively break it down and build it back up. If you do not use your muscles, they will atrophy. In the same way, if we do not use our faith, it can simply turn to apathy. Faith must be used for it to continue to be active in our lives.

Where does faith come from? It comes from the Word of God. We are told in Romans 10:17 that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” This means that by hearing the Word of God, our faith will, and must, grow.

At the same time, this scripture suggests that if we don't use our faith, then we will find it growing weaker. When we get down to it, faith can make the difference between something happening and something not happening. God is the one who does the work, but He works through His people. He is looking for His people to take steps of faith.

When the Israelites were crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land, God could have parted the waters for them to walk through, just as He did at the Red Sea. Instead, “as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water, the waters which came down from upstream stood still” (Joshua 3:15-16). God wanted them to get their feet wet first. He wanted them to put their faith into action.

Friends, if God's Word is going to be effective in our lives, then we need to get our feet wet first. It is my prayer that the Lord gives each of us courage to put our faith into action, so that we can enjoy all the benefits His grace offers through Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you as you look up to Him in Heaven.

In God's peace,
Pastor John

Lectionary Readings

November 4, 2018

Ruth 1:1-18
 Psalm 146
 Hebrews 9:11-14
 Mark 12:28-34

November 11, 2018

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
 Psalm 127
 Hebrews 9:24-28
 Mark 12:38-44

November 18, 2018

1 Samuel 1:4-20
 Psalm 113
 Hebrews 10:11-25
 Mark 13:1-8

November 25, 2018

2 Samuel 23:1-7
 Psalm 132:1-12
 Revelation 1:4b-8
 John 18:33-37



November Birthdays

- 6 John Briggs
- 11 Jay Swearingen
- 12 Lois Kemp
- 13 Mary Knox
 Becky Lewis
- 14 Marcus Hull
- 23 Brian Hottinger
- 28 Kelsey Kunkle

September 2018 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

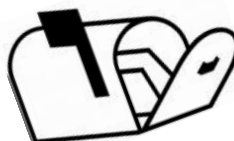
Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,204.75
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$385.96
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$94.03
Parsonage Expenses	\$571.18
Church Secretary's Pay	\$1,006.50
Choir Director's Salary	\$750.00
Payroll Taxes	\$175.26
Grass Cutting Fees	\$1,215.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Pay	\$540.00
Programs	\$939.27
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Trustees - Maintenance	\$2,498.18
Miscellaneous - New Heat Pump	\$7,785.00
Total Expenses	\$19,179.29

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,293.00
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower Income - Sprint	\$1,925.65
Cell Tower Income - Verizon	\$1,393.45
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall Fees	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$300.00
Miscellaneous - Insurance Payment for HVAC	\$7,725.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$0.00
Health Insurance & Pension Reimbursements	\$2,014.12
(from Mt. Tabor UMC & Salem UMC)	
Total Income	\$19,651.22

Thank you all so very much for the get-well bear that my mother, Ruth Hobbs, sent my son, Rowdy Witiak, several weeks ago. Rowdy is in the Army, stationed in Texas. He is currently in a physical rehab center in San Antonio, recovering from removal of a brain tumor. The bear was very sweet and appreciated by Rowdy.



*Thanks again,
 Lana Witiak*



Holly Days

Craft Bazaar and Luncheon

Saturday, November 17th

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

*Featuring Holiday Crafts,
Homemade Soups, Sandwiches,
and Bake Table*

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894

www.wesleygroveumc.org



Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Got your Christmas shopping list ready? Well, if you haven't started writing it down yet, it's time to get busy. Our Annual Holly Days Crafts Bazaar and Luncheon is coming up fast, on Saturday, November 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plan to spend some time browsing the church booth and checking out the 30 or so vendors, and of course, having a delicious lunch and taking home some bake sale goodies. If you've been making some crafts on your own for the church to sell, please let Tammy Monarch know, and of course, donations of baked goods are always appreciated. We'll be setting up on Thursday, November 15, at 7 p.m. and on Friday, November 16, at 11 a.m. If you can help with setup or on the day of the event, please let Becky Lewis know.

And if you just can't make it to the event on Saturday, the Evening Circle will still have items for sale after the service on Sunday, November 18. Come over to the Education Building, where we'll provide a light fellowship lunch, and browse our selections.

Other dates on the November calendar include the Daytime Circle Brown Bag on Wednesday, November 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building and the United Methodist Men's breakfast at Smoke Hill Barbecue on Monday, November 12 (Veterans' Day) at 8:00 a.m.

Looking ahead to December, we'll be trying some new events, headlined by our first Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. Come on out to welcome the Holiday Season with carol singing, cookies and hot chocolate, and more. Then, on

Saturday, December 8, we will host our special needs friends for a Christmas "Dinner and a Movie" Night from 4 to 7 p.m., and on Sunday, December 9, we will meet at 4 p.m. for our Annual Caroling and Holiday Dinner.

Mission News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

The Holidays will soon be upon us!

Once again, we will be partnering with Faith Connections to sponsor holiday food baskets and gifts for four local, needy families. There will be more to follow on this as soon as we receive the information on our four families, which we should have by mid-November. You will then have the opportunity to donate food (as always, lists will be provided) or gifts per the requests of the participating families.

Please remember to restock your vehicles with Meals for the Homeless.



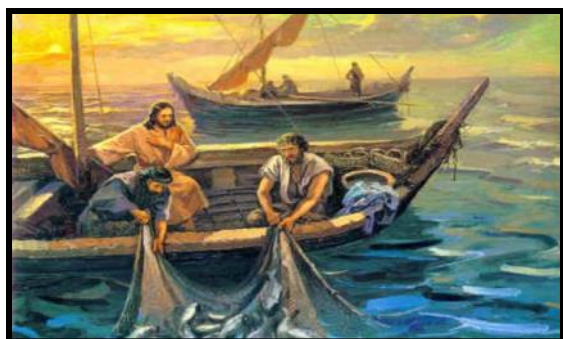
There are still plenty available in the vestibule to keep this ministry going within our community.

Christian Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Since we began Sunday School this fall, we have been reading and learning about the disciples chosen by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are finding out interesting information about the lives and characters of these 13 ordinary, *yet extraordinary*, men, which in turn causes us to ask more questions about them and their relationships with Jesus. So far, we have learned about Andrew being a brother to all of those he encountered, James as the leader he so wanted to be, Peter as the outspoken, impulsive one and Jesus's right-hand man, and Philip, the thinker and planner of this special group.

As always, feel free to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Education Building, and please don't worry if you haven't read and studied beforehand, you can still join in on our interesting, and often lively, discussions. We would love to have you join us!



Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair

Thank you to all of you who participated in our Laity Sunday Service on Sunday, October 21. In the Book of James, we learn that faith is nothing, if it is not accompanied by action and good deeds. And this church epitomizes that theme...

We appreciate all of you and your willingness to serve this church and its congregation. If you missed church on Laity Sunday, you missed our theme of service being presented by Debbie Benson through her sermon on the Harwood House in Damascus and how it gives back to many non-profit organizations within our community; by Jackie Hottinger, through her presentation on our church's mission programs, both local and global; and by all of the others who prayed, read scriptures, and led us in song. We, the Worship Committee, thank all of you for your service to Wesley Grove each and every day.

Looking ahead to end of this month, we will need many of you to serve when we work together to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Season. This will happen beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 23. Please mark your calendars and join us if you can!

Watkins Road: An Opportunity for Service

Several years ago, Wesley Grove undertook a commitment to adopt a portion of Watkins Road, holding Clean-up Days to remove litter and other roadside debris.

Many members of the original group have retired and moved away. In order to keep this community service alive, your support is needed. If you can donate an hour or so of your time six times a year, please see Becky Lewis or call her at 240-338-3211. Let's continue to do our part to keep America's roads beautiful!

Church Conference

South Damascus Charge



**Saturday,
November 3
at 9 AM
at Wesley Grove**

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!



Decorate Our Sanctuary

for the Advent Season

**Friday, November 23
at 10 AM**

Daylight Savings Time Ends!

Remember to set your **clocks back one hour** before you go to bed **on Saturday, November 3.**



Change your church directories...

Rick and Tammy Monarch



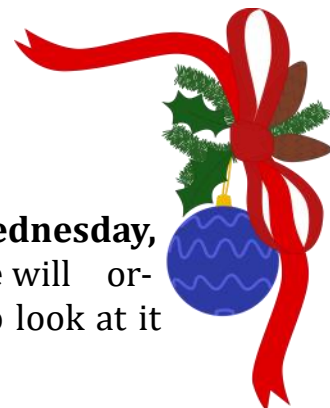
**9620 Watkins Road
Gaithersburg, MD
20882**

Their phone numbers and e-mail addresses remain the same.

It's almost Holiday Time,
and therefore, it's almost time for the Daytime Circle's
Annual Christmas Luncheon!

Once again this year, it will be held at the **Mt. Airy Tavern** on **Wednesday, December 5 at 12:30 p.m.**, and everyone is welcome to attend. We will order from the regular menu, which is available online if you wish to look at it ahead of time, and paying for our meals that day.

We do need to provide the restaurant with a head count beforehand, so that the dining room will be set up to accommodate all of us. Therefore, please let either Louise Burdette or Mary Jane Walter know if you plan to attend by Sunday, December 2.





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



Holly Days

Craft Bazaar & Luncheon

**Saturday,
 November 20**

9 AM - 3 PM



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

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