

Wesley Grove
September 2019

Messenger

From the Associate Pastor's Desk...

“Let the Stream Flow...”

~~~Ezekiel 47:1-12

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Often, people crossing our U.S. borders illegally from Mexico travel through hot, bleak, and desolate areas without water and then die from dehydration. So, as one of their outreach ministries, many churches near the American/Mexican border place water bottles in these dry, waterless areas. Traveling immigrants can then drink this water. These water bottles are life to those who are thirsty.

God shows Ezekiel the stream flowing out from the Temple, sharing that this stream is living water to save the dead land and the sea. It is through this that God declares He is the source of life that will restore Israel from a state of dead land.

The source of this stream is from within the Temple. The Glory of God is filled in the Temple (44:4), and water begins to flow out of the Temple where God's presence is. At first, only a small amount just moistens the threshold, but as the water flows longer, it becomes deeper, larger, and wider, and becomes a big river that cannot be crossed by people. On both sides of the river, a large number of trees are growing.

The guide who leads Ezekiel tells about what will happen after the water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah Valley where it enters the sea. Water there will become fresh, and there will be large numbers of fish. Various kinds of fruit will grow up endlessly, and the leaves of the trees will become medicines to heal the people. This story reveals to us that God is the only source of life that can save both the land and the sea that have been devastated by sin.

However, there are places that cannot be revived. Swamps and marshes are dead wetlands and will eventually become salty. No matter how much water flows around us, we cannot survive if we isolate ourselves like a swamp or a marsh, away from God. But, if we immerse ourselves fully in the free-flowing river that comes from the Temple and totally entrust God with our lives, we can enjoy the fullness of life because He is the source of all life.

Peace,
Pastor Youjung

Lectionary Readings

September 1, 2019

Jeremiah 2:4-13
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8, 2019

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Philemon 1:1-21
 Luke 14:25-33



September 15, 2019

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-29
 Psalm 14
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10

September 22, 2019

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
 Psalm 4 or 79:1-9
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

September 29, 2019

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31

September Birthdays

- 1 Carol Stone
- Lauren Horner
- 7 Tina Green
- 10 Sally Lewis
- Shane Kepner
- 11 Doug Gaither
- 23 Max Lynagh
- 24 Tony Bowie
- 24 Andre Boyd
- 27 Luke Horner
- 30 Jackie Hottinger



July 2019 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,521.08
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$0.00
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary's Payroll	\$848.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$883.34
Payroll Taxes	\$78.97
Miscellaneous	\$219.95
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$540.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$3,258.32
Programs	\$2,037.14
Office Expenses	\$302.99
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$2,435.33
Total Expenses	\$14,139.28

Income

Weekly Collections	\$7,223.00
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower Rent - Sprint	\$1,925.65
Cell Tower Rent - Verizon	\$1,435.25
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall Fees	\$600.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$0.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$1,953.01
(from other two churches)	
Total Income	\$14,136.91

Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

The slow days of summer are over, and it's time to jump back into our busy fall schedule. The Christian Fellowship Committee will kick off that schedule with our Annual Charge Picnic on Sunday, September 8; plan to come for outdoor worship at 11 a.m. in the pavilion, then spend the afternoon relaxing, eating, playing games, and eating some more with your church family! We'll start by mixing and mingling and sharing some snacks and drinks right after the service, followed by a pot luck lunch at approximately 1 p.m. The Committee will provide hamburgers and the trimmings, drinks, and paper goods; please bring a dish or two to share. After lunch, we'll have horse-shoes, cornhole, bingo, and just plain sitting in the shade, ending with dessert around 3 or 3:30.

Christian Fellowship Committee members, please note that we will meet on Saturday, September 7, at 10 a.m. to set up for the picnic and briefly review the schedule for the remainder of the year.

The next event on the calendar is our Fall Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 21. Please contact Tammy (301-253-0044) to reserve a space for \$15 if you have goods to sell. If you'd rather donate some items for the church booth, please have them at the Education Building for pricing by Thursday, September 19, at 7 pm. If you can help sell yard sale items or food on Saturday, please contact Brian (240-338-3210) or Becky (240-338-3211) to volunteer. As always, donations of baked goods are appreciated; cookies or brownies packaged for individual sale are preferred.

The month wraps up with our Annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Septem-

ber 28, at 5 pm (note time change) outside PetValu in the Damascus Shopping Center. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about this very meaningful community event; bring your own pet if you have one; or just stop by and help spread the message of Jesus Christ to our animal and human guests.

Also on the September calendar are Day-time Circle Brown Bag Lunch in the Education Building on Wednesday, September 4, at 12:30 p.m., and Ladies Lunch Out on Wednesday, September 18, at noon. A host family is needed for Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, September 15; please let Becky know if you can help.

Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair



On Sunday, September 22, during our regular worship service, we will conduct a practice emergency evacuation drill of our sanctuary. This is something that we have been talking about doing for years, and it's time we actually did it. In the event of a fire, storm, or medical emergency, we all need to be prepared, know where to report, and who will contact the appropriate emergency services.



Laity Sunday is coming soon on Sunday, October 20, and we need lots of you to participate as speakers, readers, etc. in the worship service on this day. Please think about how you can help, and then contact Sue at 301-253-5894 to volunteer your services.

Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Welcome to fall, September, and back to school! But guess what??? You all get an extra month's vacation as we won't return to our regular Sunday School schedule until Sunday, October 6 at 9:30 am in the Education Building. We were originally planning to start this month, but due to extended planning and several scheduling conflicts, we have decided to wait until the first weekend in October. So, enjoy this extended vacation, and return eager and ready to discuss, participate, share, and learn all that we can about our God, Christianity, and what it means to be a United Methodist. All children, youth, and adults are always welcome!

We are planning to hold a confirmation class this school year for anyone ready to take this next step in his or her faith journey. We are still in the planning stages, but think we will probably conduct this class during our regular Sunday School time on Sunday mornings. Please think and pray about making this covenant with God and let Tammy know if you're interested in participating.

And finally, please restock your vehicles with our meal bags for the hungry. Since March, we have only given out about 50 to needy folks in our community, so there are still plenty available in the vestibule, and our Sunday School participants are willing and able to make more as soon as we need them. So please help us out with this worthwhile and meaningful community project. We thank you in advance for your support!



Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Please join us on Monday, September 30, to help serve at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg. We begin cooking at 1:00 p.m. and serve the meal from 3:30-4:30 p.m. If you can help, please let Jackie know.

Thanks so much to all of you who donated the many, many school supplies that Wesley Grove contributed to Faith Connections to fill the new backpacks of needy school children within our community. Our Missions Committee also purchased and donated school supplies to this very important community outreach ministry. When these supplies were picked up in late August, they filled six big cartons and the entire back portion of a large SUV. Thanks again and again!



Please be aware that all of our area school children and teachers will be back to school on Tuesday, September 2.

As our roads get more crowded with school buses and cars in the next few weeks, please stay alert and give yourselves extra time to get to work in the mornings.

Also, be aware that in Montgomery County, we have more than 50,000 students that walk to school each day, so please pay attention to them on our neighborhood sidewalks, along the sides of our roads, and crossing our streets.



Don't Throw That Away!

Remember to save all of these items for our area schools, libraries, animal shelters, and nursing homes. Just collect them in a baggie or envelope, and then give it to Tammy when it is full. All of our local facilities appreciate your help!

Here is a list of many items to save...

General Mills Box Tops for Education – These box tops can be found on most General Mills products (including cereal, granola bars, rice mixes, pasta mixes, etc.), Bisquick, Old El Paso products, Kleenex brand tissues, Zip-lock and Hefty plastic bags and paper plates, Avery office supplies, Yoplait yogurt, Annie's Organics, and many other products, so check out your packaging carefully before throwing it away. Each one is worth 10 cents, so the money can add up quickly!

Tyson's A+ for Education – These labels can be found on all Tyson chicken products, both fresh and frozen. Each one is worth 24 cents for an area school.

Printer Ink Cartridges – Don't throw these away! Schools can recycle them for cash.

Small Plastic Lids – Save the ones that you take off soda and water bottles as well as gallon milk jugs and orange juice containers. Art teachers use these to mix small amounts of paint and to make collages.

Recent Magazines – When you are done reading these, do not recycle them. Instead, give them to an area nursing home. They like to have these available for their residents to read and to use for art projects. They also enjoy receiving gently used books, cards, puzzles, DVDs, and games.

Books (both hardback and paperback) – Donate these to the Damascus Public Library, and they will resell them at a very low cost to raise funds to buy new books.

Hotel Shampoos, Soaps, and Lotions – When you travel, bring back these small bottles, and we will give them to the area nursing homes that we support. Their residents appreciate these gifts.

Used Comforters, Blankets, Sheets, Towels, and Pillows – These items will be donated to area animal shelters and rescue centers to provide bedding for the animals.

Eyeglasses – Give these to the Damascus Lions Club, and they will repurpose them for needy members of our community.

Fronts of Used Greeting Cards – Give these to Tammy, and she will use them to make gift tags for our annual craft bazaar.

You can save all of these items and send them to the area services yourself, or you can bring them to church and give them to Tammy. She will be sure that they get to one of our many area community services.

Thanks to all of you who have been collecting these things for years! All of these local organizations appreciate our many donations very much.

Book Club Beginning

Our church book club will meet for the first time on Thursday, September 26 at 4:30 pm at the hall. We will read *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom as our first book, and it is not too late to join us! If you are interested, contact Linda Chatterton at 410-218-9243 or email her at linda.chatterton@gmail.com.



Fall Community Yard Sale



Saturday, September 21
9 am to 2 pm

Spaces Available - \$15
Table Rentals - \$5

Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044
to reserve your space.

Donations Accepted
Have these at the hall by Thursday, Sept. 19.

*Baked goods
would be very much appreciated!*

Blessing of the Animals



Saturday, September 27
at 5 p.m.

Damascus PetValu

*Bring your dogs, cats, rabbits, and other beloved
pets for their annual blessing by God.*

Community Prayers

Faith Connections of Damascus has started a church prayer list, from which all of our local congregations are asked to pray for two of our area churches and their ministries each month. For September, together as a community of believers, we will pray for:



- Damascus United Methodist Church
- Difference Makers Church

We all know just how great and miraculous the power of group prayer can be!

Mark your calendars now!

Annual Charge Conference

Saturday, October 19
at Montgomery UMC

Joint Worship Service @ 2:45 pm
Joint Charge Conference @ 3:30 pm

*Chairs, please have your reports to the
church office by Sunday, September 22.*

Save the Date...



We will once again host the food booth at the Montgomery County Agricultural Farm Park's **Fall Harvest Festival** on Saturday, October 5, in Derwood. Please contact Rick Monarch at 301-253-0044 if you can volunteer to help on this day or on the day before to help move tables, chairs, kitchen supplies, and food.

Our Sympathies are extended to...

Jaime and J Crawford, and their daughters, **Ciarra and Abby**, as well as to **Mary Knox**, on the death of their mother, grandmother, and daughter, **Andria Brickman**, on August 7.

Andi was a beloved and very active member of this church family for almost 40 years. She will be sorely missed by all of us in so many ways. A celebration of her life will be held here at Wesley Grove on Saturday, October 12 at 11 am. Please join us for this time of remembrance and celebration of one well loved by all of us.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 AM - Worship Service with Communion	2	3 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	4 12:30 PM - Brown Bag Lunch 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	5	6	7 10:00 AM - Christian Fellowship Meeting and Picnic Setup
8 11:00 AM - Outdoor Worship Service & Charge Picnic	9 7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting	10	11 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	12	13	14
15 11:00 AM - Worship Service 12:00 PM - Fellowship Hour (<i>still need host</i>)	16	17 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	18 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	19 7:00 PM - Yard Sale Setup October Newsletter Deadline	20	21 7:00 AM - Setup 9 AM - 2 PM - Fall Community Yard Sale
22 11:00 AM - Worship Service w/ Emergency Drill <i>Charge Conference Reports Due</i>	23 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting	24	25 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	26 4:30 PM - First Book Club Meeting	27	28 5:00 PM - Blessing of the Animals at PetValu in Damascus
29 11:00 AM - Worship Service 6:00 PM - Hymn Sing at First Baptist of Damascus	30 1:00 PM - Soup Kitchen					



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

Annual Outdoor Worship Service and Charge Picnic



Sunday, September 8

Worship Service @ 11:00 am
Pot-Luck Picnic Luncheon @ 1:00 pm
Games and Fun @ 1:30 pm
Dessert @ 3:00 pm

Bring a favorite dish or two to share
and a couple of lawn chairs.

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

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