

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

October 2019

From the Pastor's Desk...

“Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons...”

~~~ Luke 15:11-32

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the exception of the parable of the Samaritan, the parable of the Prodigal Son is likely the best known of all Jesus' parables. Perhaps one of the reasons we know this parable is that it seems to represent something of our own life experience. How many of us have been the prodigal? Or perhaps the older brother? Maybe we've been the gracious parent. Perhaps this parable resonated (and still resonates) with the hearers because they want to believe that if they were in the position of the father, they would reach out with open arms to a prodigal son or daughter.

Of course, Jesus wasn't merely giving parenting advice. He was speaking of the divine human relationship. If this is true for a human parent, then surely the same would be true for God. God is pictured as one who is gracious, as one whose arms are open to the one who seeks to be reconciled. In fact, God is pictured here as a father who is looking for his child's return.

It is good to hear that God is always there ready to welcome us home. It is good to know that God will celebrate our return. But what about those who have left us in the lurch? Should we respond in the same way? If God is welcoming us back, then how should we respond to others?

As long as one of our sisters or brothers is broken by the world, cast aside as irrelevant, called a sinner by the rest of us, then we are at a loss, and God's heart is broken. God will never stop reaching for the one because God's love is too wide, God's grace too rich, to cease looking for the lost, for those whom we deem unredeemable.

An unknown author beautifully portrays the possibilities of no-strings-attached love in this heartfelt story titled "The Rock."

As she grew older, her teenage daughter became increasingly rebellious. It culminated late one night when the police arrested her daughter for drunk driving. Mom had to go to the police station to pick her up. They didn't speak until the next afternoon.

Mom broke the tension by giving her a small gift-wrapped box. Her daughter nonchalantly opened it and found a little rock inside. She rolled her eyes and said, "Cute, Mom, what's this for?"

"Read the card," Mom instructed. Her daughter took the card out of the envelope and read it. Tears started to trickle down her cheeks. She got up and lovingly hugged her mom as the card fell to the floor. On the card were these words: "This rock is more than 200,000,000 years old. That is how long it will take before I give up on you."

This mother is not saying, "I will love you IF..." Instead, she says that she will love her daughter forever and nothing can change that. No strings attached.

The story of the prodigal is about God's ever-expanding grace, a grace that will offend our sensibilities and our collective sense of fairness. But God's grace ought to change us if we are its recipients. No strings attached.

Peace,
Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

October 6, 2019

Lamentations 1:1-6
 Psalm 137
 2 Timothy 1:1-14
 Luke 17:5-10

October 13, 2019

Jeremiah 29:1-7
 Psalm 66:1-12
 2 Timothy 2:8-15
 Luke 17:11-19

October 20, 2019

Jeremiah 31:27-34
 Psalm 19 or 119:97-104
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 Luke 18:1-8

October 27, 2019

Joel 2:23-32
 Psalm 65
 2 Timothy 4:6-18
 Luke 18:9-14



August 2019 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Apportionments | \$1,521.08 |
| Pastor's Salary | \$1,416.66 |
| Associate Pastor's Salary (paid over 10 mos.) | \$0.00 |
| Pastor's Benefits | \$597.50 |
| Pastor's Professional Expenses | \$291.44 |
| Church Secretary's Wages | \$533.75 |
| Choir Director's Salary | \$883.34 |
| Substitute Musician Fees | \$150.00 |
| Payroll Taxes | \$62.51 |
| Capital Improvement - New Hall Roof | \$9,212.71 |
| Grass Cutting Costs | \$0.00 |
| Snow Removal Costs | \$0.00 |
| Custodian's Salary | \$540.00 |
| Parsonage Expenses | \$410.80 |
| Programs of the Church | \$2,661.70 |
| Office Expenses | \$190.48 |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs | \$1,396.71 |
| Total Expenses | \$19,868.68 |

October Birthdays

- 2 Louise Burdette
- 6 June Ward
- 9 Don Hobbs
- 16 Paul Eisenhaur
- 18 Tim Horner
Alicia Wilson
- 21 Joyce King
Abby Crawford
- 25 Mary Jane Walter
- 30 Charlie Stone



Income

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections | \$4,688.00 |
| Sunday School Collections | \$0.00 |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint | \$1,983.42 |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon | \$1,435.25 |
| Church Dinner Proceeds | \$0.00 |
| Use of Hall Fees | \$200.00 |
| In and Out Income | \$0.00 |
| Rental Property Monthly Payment | \$1,000.00 |
| Monthly Donation from Evening Circle | \$300.00 |
| Parsonage Expense Reimbursements | \$1,953.01 |
| (from Salem and Mt. Tabor) | |
| Miscellaneous - | \$0.00 |
| Total Income | \$11,559.68 |

Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2019

Meeting was opened by Bob Burke at 7:31 pm.

In Attendance

Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Pastor Karen, Jackie Hottinger, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone

Devotional

Reading by Carol Stone, Psalm 144 – “Praise be to the Lord, my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues the people under me.”

Good News Items

Church picnic was good. A few people from both Mt. Tabor and Salem were there. Very good to see Jessie and James Harper, the “newlywed” street missionaries from NYC.

Good turnout for our summer caroling event at area nursing homes.

Prayer Requests

Charlie, Carol, and Stone Family - Charlie's dad passed away on September 8.

Sue, Skip and Ketchum Family - Sue's dad passed away on September 7.

Daniel Hottinger - auto-immune disease in joints

Brian Hottinger - pinched nerve in back

Action Items

Correction to July Ad Council Minutes: Cost of replacing the hall roof was \$13,000, not \$25,000, and kitchen fund donation was \$5,000, not \$10,000.

Rick Monarch made a motion, and Jim Kemp seconded, to approve and accept the July 15, 2019 minutes as written and published after these corrections were discussed and noted.

Old Business

New roof on hall is done and paid for.

Driveway in back is cleared of fallen tree.

Mulch has been spread around pavilion.

Work on ballfield to be done by DSA and Boy Scouts will begin this coming Saturday.

Two fence posts in rear parking lot have split and need to be replaced.

New gravel has been put down where needed in rear parking lot.

New Business

Annual Charge Conference is coming up on Saturday, October 19 at Montgomery UMC at 3:30 pm. There will be a brief worship service for us beforehand at 2:45 pm.

Committee Reports

Christian Education – Tammy

Sunday School will begin again on October 6.

Two youth will be confirmed this year.

We will probably combine SS and confirmation into one class for all ages, but still working on best format for this. Everyone is welcome to join us and reconfirm the vows they took years ago.

Our four movie nights have been successful with 12-15 people at each. We will plan more in the future.

Christian Fellowship – Becky

37 were in attendance at church picnic yesterday.

Fall Yard Sale is coming up on Saturday, September 21 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Blessing of the Animals is on Saturday, September 28 at PetValu in Damascus from 5-6 pm.

Farm Park Fall Harvest Festival will be on Saturday, October 5 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Next Special Needs event will be held on Saturday, November 2 with a fall theme.

The date of the Christmas Luncheon at the Mt. Airy Tavern has been changed to Thursday, December 5.

Finance – Tammy reported for Debbie.

Finance did not meet over the summer, but will meet within the next two weeks to review and confirm both pastors' 2020 salary recommendations from SPRC before Charge Conference.

We will need to have an Ad Council meeting on Monday, October 7 to vote on these recommendations from SPRC. AC members need to have these figures the day before in order to review them before the meeting.

Committee chairs will be getting 2020 budget request worksheets from Rick soon. They need to be returned to him by Sunday, November 3.

Lay Leadership – Tammy

We have met once to begin the process of filling officer and committee positions for 2020.

If anyone would like to be on a certain committee or fill a certain position, please contact anyone on this committee right away.

We need to have this report finalized before Charge Conference on October 19.

Memorial – Jim

Discussed possible dates for dedication of new pine tree - at Tree Lighting Ceremony in December, Spring Earth Day 2020, or on Sunday closest to Joe Laycock's birthday, whose memorial fund was used to purchase the tree.

Missions – Jackie

We are sending \$250 to UMCOR for victims of Hurricane Dorian.

Faith Connections collected enough school supplies to fill backpacks for 211 students this year.

We sent \$150 to Jubilee Program in Tennessee in Andi's memory.

Clarksburg Clothing Closet at Cedarbrook Church is open for business on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. They have free clothing for women, children, and men. Spread the word to anyone you might know who could benefit from this ministry.

Staff Parish Relations – Tammy reported for Terri.

Will meet soon on Tuesday, September 24 to discuss pastors' salaries for next year.

Trustees – Rick, Jim, and Louise reported for Jay

V-shaped tree right outside hall door (on church side) needs to be taken down within the next 1-3 years. Bob will provide information from a tree company that he has used. This will probably cost us more than \$2,500, and thus will need approval from the Ad Council in the future. There is another dying tree in the Staley House yard.

Toilet in men's room needs to be replaced. Rick and Bob are working on this.

~~~~~ continued on page 5 ~~~~~

## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

No major Christian Fellowship events are on the schedule for this month, as we prepare for the upcoming Special Needs Fall Party on November 2 and our Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon on November 23. Look for more information on the Daytime Circle Christmas Luncheon coming soon as well, and please note its date change from Wednesday, December 4 to **Thursday, December 5.**

There are a few of our "regular" events on the schedule this month:

- Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch, Wednesday, October 2, 12:30 pm @ the Education Building.
- UMM Breakfast, Monday, October 14 (Columbus Day), 8:00 am @ Tom & Ray's Restaurant in Damascus.
- Ladies Lunch Out, Wednesday, October 16, 12:00 pm @ Cracker Barrel in Frederick.
- Coffee & Conversation, Sunday, October 27, following the worship service. If you can host, please contact Becky at 240-338-3211.

.....

### Memorial Service for Andi Brickman

Saturday, October 12 at 11 am  
in the Sanctuary



Fellowship Luncheon  
immediately following  
in the hall.

Call Louise at 301-253-3828 or  
Lois at 301-253-2859 to donate foods.

## Worship News

*Sue Ketchum, Chair*

Laity Sunday is coming soon on Sunday, October 20, and we need quite a few of you to participate in the worship service that day as speakers, readers, announcers, etc. If you've always secretly thought about preaching a sermon from our pulpit, this is your chance! So, please think about how you can help, and then contact Sue at 301-253-5894 to volunteer your services and support for this special day.

Also, on this day, the Worship Committee will meet at 12:30 in the fellowship hall to hold its fall quarterly planning meeting. If you have any suggestions or concerns about our worship experiences, please contact any member of this committee before this date.

### Upcoming Community Events

#### National Christian Choir (NCC) Concerts

- Saturday, October 19 at 6:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Frederick - free - No tickets needed.
- Sunday, November 17 at 4:30 pm at John Wesley UMC in Hagerstown - free - No tickets needed.
- Saturday, November 23 at both 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm at International Community Church in Frederick - Christmas Concert - Tickets required for this event, call 240-344-4497.

#### District Meetings with Bishop Easterling

She'll meet with clergy from 2:00 to 4:30 pm and with laity from 6:30 to 8:00 pm..

The schedule includes:

- Frederick District - October 8 at Trinity UMC in Frederick
- Annapolis District - October 10 at Severna Park UMC in Severna Park
- Washington East District - October 15 at Journey of Faith UMC in Waldorf
- Central Maryland District - October 29 at St. John UMC in Columbia
- Baltimore Suburban District - November 19 at Reisterstown UMC in Reisterstown
- Baltimore Metropolitan District - December 10 at Trinity UMC in Catonsville

## Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Chair*

Sunday School will resume this month beginning on Sunday, October 6 at 9:30 am in the Education Building. Feel free to join us any Sunday. We are all 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. 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. Please help us out with this worthwhile and meaningful community project. We thank you in advance for your support!

~~~~~ continued from page 3 ~~~~~

Worship – Becky and Tammy reported for Sue.

Emergency Preparedness Drill will be on Sunday, September 22 during the worship service. Planning meeting will be held this Thursday at the church.

Laity Sunday is coming up on October 20. Let Sue know if you are interested in participating.

Average attendance for summer was 25-30, down from 35 in spring.

Pastor's Report – Karen

We've had a smooth transition for our new associate pastor.

Pastor Karen and Tammy attended Partners in Ministry & Mission (PMM) workshop with YouJung in July at Wesley Seminary in D.C.

This program will continue all year with monthly staff meetings focusing on prayer and reflection.

Looking Ahead

Next Ad Council meeting will be on Monday, October 7. This will be brief, and therefore, we will not have devotions.

Next full meeting will be on Monday, November 11. Prayer and devotions will be led by Tammy.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Wesley Grove received a nice letter from Faith Connections thanking us for our participation in the Back to School Supply Drive. It is posted on the bulletin board in the greeting room. It shows a large group of volunteers, a lot of them young people, who met to assemble the backpacks for distribution of 211 backpacks filled with school supplies to needy students in the Damascus and Clarksburg area. Thanks so much to all!

We donated \$250 to UMCOR for Hurricane Dorian victim relief. The Bahamas' devastation is so severe and so hard for us to comprehend.

We also donated \$150 in Andi Brickman's memory to the Jubilee Project in Sneedville, Tenn. This project provides food to young children in a very needy area. Andi brought this ministry to our attention, but sadly, she passed away before we could make the contribution.

Cedarbrook Church has opened the free "Clarksburg Clothing Closet" to assist in clothing needs for local families. We will have a clothing drive to support this mission in the near future. Please keep that in mind when cleaning out your closets and dresser drawers this fall. More information will follow soon.

The Holiday Basket Program will kick off soon. We will sponsor several local needy families with food and holiday gifts again this year.

Thank you to all who volunteered to help at the Soup Kitchen in September. And please remember we always have a box for food donations for Damascus Help in our church vestibule.



Fall Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 5

11 am to 4 pm

Help Needed

Friday Afternoon for Setup
Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm

**Contact Rick at 301-253-0044
to volunteer your time and service.**

Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon

Saturday, November 23
9 am to 3 pm

Spaces are still available.
*Please share with any crafters
that you might know.*

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 October, together as a community of believers, we will pray for:

- First Baptist Church of Damascus
- Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene

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

Our Sympathies are extended to...

- **Sue and Skip Ketchum.** Sue's father, John Taylor, passed on September 7 after a prolonged battle with various ailments and memory issues.
- **Charlie and Carol Stone.** Charlie's father, Eugene Stone, passed on September 8. He had been suffering for several months with different health problems.

Please know that our condolences go out to both of your families at this very sad time in your lives, and we ask that our Lord be with you today and in the days ahead to grant you peace and understanding.

Please add Roberta's new address and phone number to your church directories...

Roberta Grimes
Spring Arbor Senior Living Center
6601 English Muffin Way, Apt. 212
Frederick, MD 21703

New Address!

240-831-4204

Damascus Volunteer Fire Department

BINGO

Doors open at 5 pm.
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm.
Bingo Games begin at 7 pm.
Cost - \$40 per person
For tickets, call Lois or Jim Kemp
at 301-253-2859

October 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 6 9:30 AM - Sunday School begins today! 11:00 AM - Worship Service with Communion | 7 7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting | 8 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner | 9 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 10 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 11 1:00 PM - Fall Harvest Festival Setup | 12 11:00 AM - Memorial Service for Andi Brickman followed by Fellowship Luncheon |
| 13 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service | 14 8:00 AM - UMM Breakfast @ Tom & Ray's | 15 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner | 16 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out @ Cracker Barrel in Frederick 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 17 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out @ Cracker Barrel in Frederick 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 18 November Newsletter Deadline | 19 2:45 PM - Worship @ Montgomery UMC 3:30 PM - Charge Conf. @ MUMC |
| 20 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service 12:30 PM - Worship Committee Meeting | 21 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting | 22 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner | 23 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 24 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 25 5:00 PM - Dinner and Bingo @ DVFD | 26 |
| 27 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service 12:00 PM - Fellowship Hour (<i>still need host family</i>) | 28 | 29 | 30 7:00 PM - Choir Practice | 31 | | |



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 Charge Conference

Saturday, October 19

at Montgomery UMC

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

Please join us for this time
of sharing and celebrating
our past year with our
District Superintendent, J.W. Park.

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

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