

Wesley Grove Messenger

February 2020

From Pastor Karen's Pulpit...

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My childhood friend, April, was strolling along the beach a couple of months ago. She was looking for sea glass or any other treasure that the sand on the Outer Banks wanted to bestow upon her. And what a treasure she found! It was in the form of a little, black film canister, which to most eyes, probably looked like little more than a piece of trash. But upon opening the canister, April discovered a hand-written note. Here's how [OBX Today](#) reported the story:

In the summer of 1983, 11-year-old Rob Stober wrote a heartfelt letter in search of a pen pal, tucked it into a plastic film canister, and tossed it off a pier and into the sea at Ocean Grove, New Jersey. This was something he'd done every August between 1980 and 1986 or so, on trips "down the shore" for his birthday.

"Having a pen pal in the '80s was all the rage, so I figured this would be a great way to get one," Stober said. As a kid, he fully expected someone would find at least one of his messages-in-a-canister, but no one ever responded. He gave up hope, and life went on.

On November 23, 2019, Colington, NC, resident April Lovin was beachcombing on Pea Island and found an assortment of oddities, including five military meals-ready-to-eat and... an old plastic film canister. "When I opened the canister, I found a folded, pencil-printed, ruled notebook paper pen pal letter," Lovin said. "It was a sweet letter with charming facts about his life and a request that if found to write back and send a picture."

The note wasn't dated, but Lovin knew it probably wasn't from this era. "Since his interests did not include anything electronic, he gave way more information about himself than any mother would let her kid give today and that he signed the letter in cursive, I concluded the letter had been in the water for a while," Lovin said.

So, she went on a search for the boy who wanted a pen pal, settling on a man with the same name in a town near that of the sender. "I sent a private message that just said, 'This a strange question, but did you ever write a pen pal letter, put it in a film canister, and throw it in the ocean?'"

Two days later, she got a brief message back. "That is a strange question."

"I shot him a picture of the letter, and he was blown away," Lovin said.

Stober said he first thought the message from April was spam, until he saw his letter. In it, he had written about his love of soccer, World War II history, climbing trees, and practicing "Kung Fu." He also said that he had a gorgeous girlfriend and lived in a small New Jersey neighborhood.

Today, Stober is starting his 21st year in law enforcement as a police officer with the Branchburg Police Department. He's married (but not to that gorgeous girlfriend!) and has a 12-year-old stepdaughter. He's an avid motocross racer, cyclist, and "gym rat." He called his mom soon after he heard from April, and she found it quite funny that a simple plastic film canister could stay watertight for over 36 years.

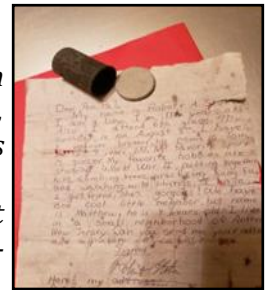
Lovin said she's happy to have made the connection and plans to send the canister and letter back to Stober as a family keepsake.

"April was the right person at the right time to find this letter," Stober said. "I'm still astonished it lasted 36 years in the ocean. I would love to know exactly where it went, but I'm glad it ended up where it did. That's good enough for me."

And after nearly four decades, Stober finally got his pen pal. (OBXToday.com, December 5, 2019)

The moral and message of the story is: "God's treasures are everywhere! Don't forget to look for them!"

Blessings of peace to you,
Pastor Karen



Lectionary Readings

February 2, 2020

Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

February 9, 2020

Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 112:1-10
 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
 Matthew 5:13-20

February 16, 2020

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

February 23, 2020

Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9



BWC Scholarship Information

The Baltimore-Washington Conference is offering college scholarships for the fall 2020 semester. Students can apply from January 3 through March 5 using the online application system.

These scholarships are available for students who will be attending colleges and universities in the United States full time. All applicants have to be active members of their churches for at least one year and have GPAs of at least 2.5. Official transcripts and contact information for two church references (the pastor and another member) will need to be provided.

To apply, visit www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/

December 2019 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,521.08
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$578.96
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$145.60
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,067.50
Choir Director's Salary	\$883.34
Substitute Musician Payments	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$145.40
Capital Improvement	\$3,500.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$540.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$919.63
Programs	\$669.61
Office Expenses	\$15.83
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,024.05
Total Expenses	\$13,025.16

Income

Weekly Collections	\$6,761.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$1,983.42
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon	\$1,478.31
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
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements (from Salem and Mt. Tabor)	\$1,953.01
Miscellaneous	\$364.00
Total Income	\$13,839.74



February Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Barbara Kunkle | 14 Abby Horner |
| 9 Namela Miller | 15 Susan Boyko |
| 12 YouJung Jung | 22 Shelby Kepner |
| 13 Daniel Hottinger | 23 Stephen Lewis |
| 14 Joel Ketchum | |

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Get ready with your best Country Cookin' recipes: our annual Winter Adult Potluck will take place at the Sherwoods' new log cabin on Saturday, February 1, starting at 6 p.m. To go with the setting, we're asking you to come up with a real down home dish to share and sign up in the vestibule to bring it to the party. Directions will be provided, and carpooling is encouraged. Thanks to Terri and Mike for hosting!

There's more food on the schedule for February as well: Coffee & Conversation, hosted by the Miller and Park families (2/9); Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch (2/5, 12:30 p.m.); United Methodist Men's Breakfast (President's Day, 2/17, 8 a.m. at Tom & Ray's); and Ladies Lunch Out (2/19, noon at Chili's in Frederick).

The Christian Fellowship Committee met on January 6 to plan the calendar for the year, which follows on the next page. Please mark your own calendars, so you don't miss an event! Meeting highlights include:

- Switching the Fall Yard Sale to the second weekend in September, with the Annual Charge Picnic moving to the third weekend.
- Moving the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony to Monday, November 30 to avoid any potential scheduling conflicts.

Coffee & Conversation hosts are needed for the following dates: March 15, May 17, July 19, and October 18. If you can host on one of these dates, please let Becky know.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Wesley Grove will be collecting both snack foods and drinks for the Damascus area afterschool program called "Rock the House" throughout the month of February. A sign-up sheet will be located on the table in the vestibule. Please look for it and sign up for the needed items that you would like to donate. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Christian Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Throughout February, we will continue to study, discuss, and determine what makes us United Methodist Christians. As always, please feel free to join us any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in our fellowship hall.

On Saturday, February 29, we will host another "Dinner and a Movie" at 6 p.m. Our fellowship meal will consist of fried chicken, which the Committee will supply, and potluck side dishes and desserts. The movie will be *War Room*, which some of you may remember was out at the theaters about 5-10 years ago. All are welcome; please sign up in the vestibule.

Plans are in the works for a Lenten Book Study, which Pastor Karen will lead for the charge. This group will meet at Mt. Tabor UMC on Tuesday nights beginning in March. Listen in church for further details about the title of the book, time, and dates for these sessions.

Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair

Thanks to all of you who helped to un-decorate our sanctuary from the Advent and Christmas Seasons. As always, our church looked beautiful with the hanging greens, red bows, sparkling tree, and bright poinsettias, but like all good things, time had come for these beautiful decorations to put away for another year. This job was done quickly and easily due to the sixteen pairs of hands that showed up to help with the take down. Again, thanks to all of you who helped!

Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, February 23. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or ideas that you would like us to consider and discuss, please let Sue or any other member know before this date.

Be Sure to Put These Dates on Your 2020 Calendars...

February

- 1 - Fellowship Potluck @ Sherwood Log Cabin, 6 p.m.
Theme: Country Cookin'
- 5 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 9 - Coffee & Conversation, Hosts: Millers & Parks
- 17 - UMM Breakfast @ Tom & Ray's, 8 a.m.
- 19 - Ladies Lunch Out @ Chili's Frederick, noon
- 29 - Family Movie & Dinner Night @ the hall, 6 p.m.

March

- 4 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 13 - Turkey and Oyster Dinner Set-Up, 11 a.m.
- 14 - Turkey and Oyster Fundraising Dinner, 1 p.m.
- 15 - Coffee & Conversation, Hosts: TBD
- 18 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 21 - Potluck Dinner & Games @ Monarch Home, 6 p.m.

April

- 1 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 4 - Community Egg Hunt, 3 p.m.
- 4 - Special Needs Easter Party, 4-7 p.m.
- 12 - Sunrise Breakfast, following 6:30 a.m. service, Hosts: Lewis
- 15 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 19 - Spring Nursing Home Caroling & Potluck Dinner @ Lewis Home, 4 p.m.

May

- 6 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 7 - Yard Sale Set-up, 7 p.m.
- 9 - Spring Community Yard Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 10 - Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Hosts: UMM
- 17 - Coffee & Conversation, Hosts: TBD
- 20 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon

June

- 3 - Daytime Circle Summer Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
- 7 - Coffee & Conversation (after the Cantata), 11 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Hosts: Lewis
- 17 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 21 - Father's Day Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Hosts: UMW

July

- 10 - Celebrate Damascus Parade, 7 p.m.
- 15 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 19 - Coffee & Conversation, Hosts: TBD
- 25 - Special Needs Summer Party, 4-7 p.m.

August

- 16 - Summer Nursing Home Caroling & Pizza Dinner @ the Hall, 4 p.m.
- 19 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon

September

- 2 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 10 - Yard Sale Set-up, 7 p.m.
- 12 - Fall Community Yard Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 16 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 19 - Meeting & Picnic Set-up, 10 a.m.
- 20 - Church Picnic & Outdoor Games, 12:30 p.m.

October

- 2 - Fall Harvest Festival Set-up, 1 p.m.
- 3 - Montgomery County Fall Harvest Festival in Derwood, 10 a.m.
- 7 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 12 - UMM Breakfast @ Tom & Ray's, 8 a.m.
- 18 - Coffee & Conversation, Hosts: TBD
- 21 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 31 - Special Needs Halloween Party, 4-7 p.m.

November

- 4 - Brown Bag Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 11 - UMM Breakfast @ Tom & Ray's, 8 a.m.
- 18 - Ladies Lunch Out, noon
- 19 - Bazaar Set-up, 7 p.m.
- 20 - Bazaar Set-up, 11 a.m.
- 21 - Holly Days Craft Bazaar & Luncheon, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 22 - Church Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Hosts: Evening Circle
- 28 - Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas, 9:30 a.m.
- 30 - Community Tree Lighting Ceremony, 7 p.m.

December

- 2 - Christmas Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
- 13 - Coffee & Conversation (after the Cantata), 11 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Hosts: Lewis
- 20 - Christmas Caroling & Dinner @ Monarch Home, 4 p.m.



Administration Council Minutes

Monday, January 20, 2020

Meeting opened by Bob Burke at 7:32 pm.

In Attendance:

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

Devotions:

Carol Stone – Ecclesiastes 12 - “We should serve God while we can as our youth will fade from us.”

Prayer Requests:

Marty Stone, Charlie’s brother, has experienced considerable weight loss due to undetermined causes.
Continued prayers for both Sharon and Ollie as they grieve the loss of Sandi. Ollie can no longer attend evening meetings as Sharon’s attendants only stay until 8:00.

Good News Items:

Good turn-out at Soup Sunday Fellowship Luncheon yesterday. We had about 40 people with lots of soups and breads.
All Christmas events turned out very well – tree lighting ceremony, cantata, caroling.
16 came on Saturday to help undecorate the sanctuary from the Holidays. Thanks to all who helped!

Old Minutes:

November meeting minutes seemed correct to everyone. Jackie Hottinger motioned to approve them, and Tammy seconded. All were in favor, and motion was approved

Old Business:

The toilet in the church has been repaired. Bob noticed during the repair that the toilet tank had sediment in it. He’s thinking about installing a filter on the well line to provide protection for the fixtures.
Fire extinguishers have all been updated
Work on ballfield will be done very soon and in time for spring ball season. A local contractor will provide dirt for the infield free of charge. Benches have all been redone.
Big tree behind the hall was taken down in late December. Thanks to Rick and POGO (the tree removal company), which was \$2,000 cheaper than our other estimates.

New Business:

New Finance Chairperson is needed as Debbie Benson recently resigned from that position.
Motion sensor lights on the church porch are not working again. Trustees will meet next Monday and elect their new chairperson.
The gate for the flag cell tower compound has fallen off. Rick will get the phone number off the fence and call about having it repaired.

Committee Reports:

Trustees

This committee has not met since October, but will meet next Monday night.
We still need to dedicate the new pine tree in the hall circle. We plan to do that this spring with the Laycock family present.
A few church pews need their screws replaced and/or tightened.
Possible purchase of a defibrillator in the church to be discussed.
Safety and Security Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that we buy a second one. Worship Committee agrees with this. Sue Ketchum also recommends that the batteries should be checked once a month. Skip has agreed to do this.

Finance

New chairperson is needed. Any interested person should contact Pastor Karen or any member of the Nominations Committee.
We have an obtainable and realistic budget for 2020, so we are in good shape financially.
Rick stated that we brought in about \$170,000 last year, and we spent almost \$150,000, so we ended the year about \$20,000 ahead.

Christian Fellowship

Committee met two weeks ago and created 2020 event calendar. It will be listed in the February newsletter. Please look for it and write all of the dates on your personal calendars. A few changes were made and will be noted in the newsletter.

Missions

We had a good Holiday Season with lots of support from the congregation in the form of Christmas presents and food baskets.
We will again collect snacks for the “Rock the House” afterschool program throughout the month of February.
We are planning a used clothing drive in the spring and deciding on a final donation to sponsor Jesse’s youth ministry in NYC before she and her husband move to San Diego to begin a new youth ministry there.

Christian Education

We are averaging 10-15 at Sunday School.
Movie and dinner nights will begin again this coming Friday night.
Plans for confirmation of two youth are in the works for spring.
Karen will conduct a Lenten book study at Mt. Tabor for the charge beginning Tuesday, March 3. The book will tentatively be “How Happiness Happens.”

Worship

This Committee has not met since October, but will meet again on Sunday, February 23 to plan our spring worship season.

Communications

Cathy Burke, new chairperson, reported that this committee met last week to review the current church brochure, website, and policies and procedures handbook. The possibility of electronic outdoor signs was discussed and will be looked into further. Committee will meet back again in July.

SPRC

This Committee met in November to evaluate 2019 goals for the pastors and for the congregation as well as to set new goals for both for 2020. All data was sent to BWC by December 1.

Dinner

We will hold our Annual Spring Turkey & Oyster Dinner on Saturday, March 14. Costs will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Help will be needed on both Friday and Saturday, so mark your calendars now.

Pastor’s Report

Bishop Easterling has done a wonderful job of keeping the BWC informed of what’s going on with the UMC. Earlier this month, a 16-member task group released a multi-page proposal for the future of our denomination. It covered in detail the many possibilities for the separation of the UMC over the next four years. Steven did a good job of summarizing this document for the group. For additional details, read the report or speak with Pastor Karen or Steven.

Next Meeting:

Our next Administrative Council meeting will be on Monday, March 9 at 7:30 pm at the hall. Devotions will be led by Cathy Burke.

Bob Burke adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Join Us for

UMM Breakfast

at

Tom & Ray's



**Monday,
February 17
8 AM**

Get Ready for Lent

Join Us at Mt. Tabor UMC
for our

Charge Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

**Tuesday,
February 25
6 PM**



Ladies Lunch Out

at

Chili's
in Frederick



**Wednesday, February 19
12 PM**

We plan to ask Roberta to join us.

Dinner and Movie Night

in the Fellowship Hall

featuring "War Room"


**Saturday,
February 29
6 PM**

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
Sign up in the vestibule.

Reminders and Requests

- Be sure to pick up your 2020 giving envelopes if you have not already done so. They are sitting on the table in the vestibule.
- Pick up any remaining Christmas poinsettias that you might have ordered. They are still in the front of the sanctuary.
- Save the dates of Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 to help set-up, cook, serve, and clean-up at our annual Spring Turkey and Oyster Fundraising Dinner. Contact Rick (301-873-0042) or Becky (240-338-3211) to see how you can help.
- Start thinking of how you plan to observe the Lenten Season in your life this year. Will you abstain from something you enjoy, or will you take on a new project to serve others? Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Wesley Grove will host the worship service at 7:30 p.m. that evening for our South Damascus Charge.

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 6:00 PM - Potluck Dinner at the Sherwoods' Log Home at Sugarloaf Mountain
2 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship with Communion	3	4 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	5 12:00 PM - Brown Bag Lunch 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service 12:00 PM - Fellowship Hour	10 7:30 PM - Missions Committee Meeting	11	12 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	13	14  Happy Valentine's Day!	15
16 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service	17 8:00 AM - UMM Breakfast at Tom & Ray's Restaurant	18 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner March Newsletter Deadline	19 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out @ Chili's in Frederick 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service 12:30 PM - Worship Committee Meeting	24 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting	25 6:00 PM - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at MTUMC	26 7:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Worship Service at WGUMC	27	28	29 6:00 PM - Fried Chicken Dinner and Movie Night



Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church
Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: wgumc@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

Dinner in the Woods



at the
Sherwoods' New Log Home
1048 Mt. Ephraim Rd. in Dickerson
at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain

Saturday, February 1
6 PM

Sign up in the vestibule,
carpool if you can, and
bring your favorite comfort food to share.

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

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