

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

September 2020

***You, who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!
He is our help and our shield.***

~~~ *Psalm 115:11* ~~~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a famous story about gifted Italian violinist, Niccolo Paganini. One day, he was performing a very difficult piece of music in front of a large audience. While his playing astonished everyone at the concert, all of a sudden, one of the four strings on his violin snapped. Everyone in the hall was frozen with shock and stared at him with worries about how he would handle this unexpected crisis. Paganini frowned briefly, but he continued playing with just three strings. A little while later, a second string snapped, and shortly after that, a third string broke. At this point, the crowd began to murmur and stir in their seats because just a single string remained on Paganini's violin, making it seemingly impossible to finish his performance. However, he appeared unfazed by these unfortunate incidents. Instead of giving up playing the piece, he continued playing with the remaining single string. After he successfully completed this performance, the entire house rose and gave Paganini a standing ovation. Playing with just the one remaining string both surprised and fascinated the audience.

In our lives, we have many strings – a string of health, a string of wealth, a string of knowledge, a string of wisdom, and maybe even a string of fame. Some people might have more strings, while others have fewer. Or some folks might have more powerful strings, while others have weaker ones. Even though everyone has different kinds of strings in his or her life, the fact is that someday all of our strings would snap and hang limply from our lives. All the strings that we currently hold are not going to last forever, and so, those strings that we rely on so much and trust more than God are not worthy of us doing so.

The Psalm writer says that for all you who fear the Lord, trust the Lord instead! He is our helper and our shield. This verse teaches us that we should not lose or break “the string of faith” that connects us to God. Unless we lose or cut it, God will keep this string from breaking, tangling, slackening, or eroding. By trusting in the Lord, this string of faith will be our help when we are in trouble and will be our shield when we are facing danger because God is mighty and powerful and can handle all situations.

I hope we all hold on to our own personal strings of faith tightly, rather than letting go of them, especially in these very stressful and pressured-filled times. Cling to our faith, and it will see us through...

With Christ's love,  
*Pastor YouJung*

# Lectioary Readings

## September 6, 2020

Exodus 12:1-14  
 Psalm 149  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20

## September 13, 2020

Exodus 14:9-31  
 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35

## September 20, 2020

Exodus 16:2-15  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
 Philemon 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16

## September 27, 2020

Exodus 17:1-7  
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
 Philemon 2:1-13  
 Matthew 21:23-32



## September Birthdays

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



## July 2020 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Apportionments                 | \$1,245.83        |
| Pastor's Salary                | \$1,434.84        |
| Associate Pastor's Salary      | \$0.00            |
| Pastor's Benefits              | \$709.38          |
| Pastor's Professional Expenses | \$0.00            |
| Church Secretary's Wages       | \$1,227.63        |
| Choir Director's Salary        | \$0.00            |
| Worker's Comp Insurance        | \$0.00            |
| Substitute Musician Payments   | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                  | \$93.92           |
| Capital Improvement            | \$0.00            |
| Grass Cutting Costs            | \$0.00            |
| Groundskeeper Costs            | \$0.00            |
| Custodian's Salary             | \$135.00          |
| Parsonage Expenses             | \$3,267.99        |
| Programs                       | \$177.88          |
| Office Expenses                | \$63.00           |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs   | \$1,121.43        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | <b>\$9,476.90</b> |

### Income

|                                                                            |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections                                                         | \$5,507.26         |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint                                             | \$2,042.92         |
| 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                                       | \$0.00             |
| Parsonage Expense Reimbursements<br>(from Salem and Mt. Tabor UM Churches) | \$4,186.30         |
| Miscellaneous                                                              | \$0.00             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                                        | <b>\$14,214.79</b> |

## Worship Services

Our Sunday services will continue to be held outside throughout this month of September due to coronavirus restrictions. Our worship time will remain at 10 am. We will also continue to livestream our services each Sunday morning on Zoom. Please join us there if you can not be with us physically on the church grounds.

As always, if you are willing to help in any way with our weekly services, (i.e. — read the Scriptures, sing a solo/duet, play an instrument, preach a sermon, help with the audio equipment setup and takedown, etc.), please let Tammy know at 301-253-0044. We would welcome help of any kind!



We know that these days can be tough in lots of different ways. If you need help with food, rides to doctor visits, depression, anxiety, etc., please call 301-253-0044 or email the church office at Wesleygrove208@verizon.net.

Our two pastors and office manager are here to help. We have a variety of resources available and access to many others. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

May our Lord continue to richly bless each of you and your families in these challenging times.



## Family Outdoor Movie Nights #5 & #6

Join us on the evenings of Friday, September 4 and 18 for a time to be outdoors together watching two age-old classics from the 1980's. The featured films will be "The Karate Kid 2" and "The Karate Kid 3." Plan to arrive between 7:30-8:00 to pick your family's spot and set up your chairs. We ask that you wear face masks and bring your own drinks as well as a couple of flashlights for returning to your cars after the films. Snacks will be provided. The movies will begin at dusk, which should be around 8:00. (Please note: If needed, our rain dates will be the following evenings Saturday, September 5 and 19.) Hope to see you all there!



## Mark Your Calendars Now...

Our Annual Church Conference for our South Damascus Charge will be held on Saturday, November 21 at 11 am. This year, all church conferences in the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held virtually. At this time, committee reports are being prepared and should be returned to Tammy no later than Friday, September 25 in order for us to submit our complete package to the BWC by the deadline of Thursday, October 1. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters about the actual church conference on November 21.

## Thank You Note from



Well, it definitely looked different this year, but we did still it! Thanks to all of you so much for donating supplies and much-needed funds to the Annual Damascus-Clarksburg Area School Supply Drive. With your help, we provided more than 175 students with the new school supplies that they will need for online learning this fall. During this difficult time, when many families are struggling just to put food on their tables, these provided school supplies will make even more of a difference. The Damascus-Clarksburg Area continues to be such a blessing to our neighbors in need.

We appreciate all the support, supplies, and online monetary donations provided by the generous folks at Wesley Grove United Methodist Church and the 13 other area churches that contributed. Thanks also to the WG Missions Committee for its gift of \$150. This drive continues to be a wonderful community service project year after year.

Again, the generosity of our community to donate supplies, money, and time to help others is truly a blessing that sets our community apart from so many others. Thank you again and again!!!



## New Address for



**Donnie and Jackie Hottinger**  
339 Oxford Way  
Martinsburg, WV 25405

Jackie's Cell # 301-252-2404  
Donnie's Cell # 240-388-3456

We all wish the two of them a wonderful, and easy, fresh start in their new home and town! We know God will be with them, and a little selfishly, we are all so very thankful for our livestreamed virtual services, so that we can still see and talk to them weekly. Best wishes, Jackie and Donnie!

A big thank you to Judy Hughes for agreeing to fill Jackie's position of chairperson of the Missions Committee until the end of this year. Jackie and her passion for this kind of service will be sorely missed, but we all know that Judy will do an outstanding job taking this over from her. Much success to both of you!

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***Due to coronavirus restrictions***, many of the activities and events that we all enjoy in the fall will not occur this year. Please delete these from your calendars, and know that we hope to re-establish these in the coming year.

Our current cancellations include...

September — Charge Picnic and Fall Community Yard Sale

October — Harvest Farm Festival, Turkey & Oyster Dinner, and Special Needs Halloween Party

November — Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon

December — Nursing Home Caroling, Cantata

*Editor's Note: I have been trying to revive this column for months, but I've had a difficult time convincing people to talk about themselves. So, a big thank you goes out to Carol for agreeing to spotlight herself this month!*



## Spotlight on **CAROL STONE**

Carol Anne Beck, whose birthday is the first day of this month, was born in Takoma Park in the late 1950's. She grew up on Moffett Road in Silver Spring, in a little community known as Oakview. Carol received her name from the roads her parents took to get to the hospital on the day that she was born — Carroll Ave. and Anne St. She is the middle child of five, having two older brothers and two younger sisters. She attended Brook View Elementary, Eastern Junior High, and Montgomery Blair High Schools – all here in Montgomery County. Throughout both elementary and junior high, Carol was involved in Girl Scouts, first as a Brownie and later as a Junior and a Cadette. Her mom acted as the troop leader.

Her whole family attended Takoma Park Baptist Church while she was growing up. Both of her parents acted as deacons there, and Sunday School was a large part of her upbringing. After some years of serving at this church, her parents decided to start a new church off of Route 29 and Briggs Chaney Road. They met in what they called, "the house on the hill." This new church had about 30 families with lots of kids, and it was a lot of fun! After several years, however, Carol's parents decided this new church was not growing enough, and they then started attending Montgomery Baptist Church and stayed through just one Christmas Season. Because at that time, she and her siblings were all in their teens and had friends in the neighborhood that went to another church right up the street. They convinced their parents to join this church, called Good Shepherd United Methodist, and it's still there today on New Hampshire Avenue at the top of Oakview Drive.

Carol's first job, at age 14, was collecting money in cans for Arthritics and Friends United. She left that and went to work at a bowling alley in Langley Park. A year later, when she turned 15, she got a job at the Silver Spring Library, where she shelved books after school. She continued working there throughout high school and into college, when she got promoted to a desk assistant position.

Carol graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in 1976 and then started at Montgomery College that next fall, where she majored in Computer Science. After college, she went to work for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Nine years later, she left and went to work for Digital Equipment Corp. But after three years there, she left and returned to work at the FDA. She was hired by Dr. Charles Stone, one of the best managers she had ever worked for. Eventually, when their jobs took them separate directions in the FDA, they started dating and got married in 1997. Carol still works for the FDA as an IT Project Manager. She received my Project Management Professional Certification in 2004.

While looking for a church in 1997 in which to be married, they stumbled upon Wesley Grove. They visited one Sunday, and Charlie recognized his former third grade history teacher, Allan Walter, while Carol recognized Joe and Pat Mallon from Good Shepherd. As a result, they were married at Wesley Grove and have never left. They bought their current house at 5 Exodus Court in Gaithersburg after they were married.

Carol has a daughter named Jennifer, who was 14 when they first came to WG. At that time, someone on the Lay Leadership Committee asked both Carol and Charlie to serve as Sunday School teachers, and they did for several years teaching the youth in our junior high and senior high classes. Carol also became our UMYF Coordinator for many years.

Today, Carol has three grandchildren – Nando, who is 5 and has attended VBS here at WG, and Penelope and Emelia (fraternal twins), who are just one year old. Her hobbies include walking her dog Chip, working out in her yard, and playing with her grandkids. She also loves to sing and cruise with Charlie. They both joined the Damascus Lions Club in 2000, and very recently, Carol was installed as the president of this club for the 2020-2021 year.

Carol's favorite thing about Wesley Grove is that she loves everyone in the church as her brothers and sisters. She loves God and knows that He is with her wherever she goes. She always sees God at Wesley Grove, and for that reason, Carol is very comfortable here.

## Voter Information

*reprinted from  
Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich's weekly letter  
to county residents and businesses dated August 27, 2020*



Dear Friends:

Your vote matters. We want the election process to go as smoothly as possible amidst this pandemic. The more people who vote by mail, the shorter the wait times at early voting and election day voting sites. Within the next few days, all registered voters will be receiving an application to request a mail-in (this used to be called an “absentee”) ballot.

I cannot say this enough – please vote by mail – and please do not request (unless you have to) the internet/email link, which has to be hand copied and requires two people per ballot to ensure the integrity of the ballot.

You can also request a mail-in ballot right now by texting the letters VBM to 77788, or by visiting either the County Board of Elections website at [777vote.org](http://777vote.org) or the State Board of Elections website at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1>.

The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, October 20.

Mail-in ballots will begin arriving as early as the end of September. There will be about 40 drop boxes available around the County to return your completed ballot if you would prefer that over using the U.S. mail. Later in September, we will announce and publish the locations of these boxes, and despite incorrect comments from some at the national level, these drop boxes are safe. They will be secured to protect your ballot from fraud, and they are not a concern as a transmitter of COVID-19.

If you are not registered to vote, it is not too late. The deadline for voter registration is Tuesday, October 13.



Sincerely,  
Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive

# September 2020

| Sun                                                                         | Mon                                                 | Tue | Wed                                                                   | Thu                                           | Fri                                                                                       | Sat                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             |                                                     | 1   | 2                                                                     | 3<br>7:30 PM—<br>Finance Committee<br>Meeting | 4<br>8:00 PM—<br>Family Outdoor<br>Movie Night #5                                         | 5<br>8:00 PM—<br>Rain date for Fam-<br>ily Movie Night #5                         |
| 6<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion | 7<br><b>Happy Labor<br/>Day!</b>                    | 8   | 9<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual “Re-Entering<br>Well” Task Force<br>Meeting  | 10                                            | 11                                                                                        | 12<br>9:00 AM—<br>Virtual BWC An-<br>nual Conference<br>(rescheduled from<br>May) |
| 13<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                  | 14<br>7:30 PM—<br>Administrative<br>Council Meeting | 15  | 16                                                                    | 17                                            | 18<br>8:00 PM—<br>Family Outdoor<br>Movie Night #6<br><b>Oct. Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b> | 19<br>8:00 PM—<br>Rain date for Fam-<br>ily Movie Night #6                        |
| 20<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                  | 21                                                  | 22  | 23<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual “Re-Entering<br>Well” Task Force<br>Meeting | 24                                            | 25<br>9:00 AM—<br>All Charge Con-<br>ference Reports<br>due to the Church<br>Office       | 26                                                                                |
| 27<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                  | 28<br>7:30 PM—<br>Board of Trustees<br>Meeting      | 29  | 30<br>3:00 PM—<br>Book Club Meeting<br>at Judy’s House                |                                               |                                                                                           |                                                                                   |

 **Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church**  
Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto: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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)



**It's Back to School Time!**

*Best Wishes  
to  
All of Our Students,  
Teachers, and Parents*

**May God Bless You All!**



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

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