

# Wesley Grove Messenger

August 2021

## From the Pastor's Desk...

When my children were younger, they would listen to a song by 21 Pilots that repeated these words over and over again...

*They say, "Stay in your lane, boy, lane, boy,"  
But we go where we want to,  
They think this thing is a highway, highway,  
But will they be alive tomorrow?*

"Stay in your lane." I've lost count of the number of times I've said that to someone driving erratically in front of me. Or to my daughter driving in the seat next to me. Have you ever said it to anyone? Has anyone ever said this to you?

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus arrives back in His hometown of Nazareth after a long stretch of fruitful ministry, and you would think He would be a local hero. Jesus enters the synagogue of His boyhood and begins to teach. At first, things go very well; His townspeople receive His words with astonishment and curiosity. "Where did this man get all this?" they ask each other. "What is this wisdom that has been given to Him? What deeds of power are being done by His hand?"

But then, almost without warning, something happens. Someone in the crowd starts stirring up the pot. (There's one in every crowd!) "Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here among us?" At this point, the mood in the synagogue shifts. Those who appreciated Him begin to accuse Him, and the people "take offense." They decide that Jesus is presuming too much. Exceeding His bounds. Not staying in His lane. "We know exactly where you come from! I knew you as a boy! Don't get too big for your britches! Remember your place! Stay in your lane."

I remember preaching at my hometown church. It was a fabulous experience. I was received with open arms. But there were also the "I remember when" comments after church. They made me feel small and vulnerable. "Stay in your lane, Karen," they seemed to be saying with their offhanded comments. "We knew you when."

So I wonder... In what ways do I refuse to let others in my life grow and change? Do I box them into identities that are narrow and constricting? Do I allow the people I am close to to become? Do I allow myself to become? Or do I cut myself and others off with expectations that are severe and stifling?

Jesus doesn't stay in His lane. God doesn't limit God's self to our small and stingy notions of the sacred. God exceeds, God abounds, God transgresses, God transcends. We might be scandalized by His lane-crossing, but He's not. We might put limits on His deeds of power, but those limits won't confine Him for long. We might amaze Him with our unbelief, but He will call out to us, nevertheless, daring us always to see and experience Him anew.

May God's blessings be with you this summer, and may you have safe travels on the highways of life.

Blessings,  
Pastor Karen

## Lectionary Readings

### August 1, 2021

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a  
 Psalm 51  
 Ephesians 4:1-16  
 John 6:24-35

### August 8, 2021

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33  
 Psalm 130  
 Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
 John 6:35, 41-51

### August 15, 2021

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14  
 Psalm 111  
 Ephesians 5:15-20  
 John 6:51-58

### August 22, 2021

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43  
 Psalm 84  
 Ephesians 6:10-20  
 John 6:56-69

### August 29, 2021

Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
 Psalm 45 or 72  
 James 1:17-27  
 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



## June 2021 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,413.58
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,473.76
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$389.86
Church Secretary's Wages	\$915.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$70.00
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$543.37
Property Insurance	\$1,903.25
Administrative Expenses	\$335.53
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$368.44
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$29.57
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$286.67
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$313.18
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$545.03
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,937.24</b>

## Church Clean-Up Day

Please join our church family on Saturday, August 28 in cleaning up our campus to get it ready for the return of activities, meetings, Sunday School, and ballgames this fall. We will begin at 8 am and work until the afternoon. The more hands we have, the more we can get done. This is a big job, and it will take all of us to do it. So, please come, bring your rakes, shovels, and other gardening tools, and help us make our property look good again!



### Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,930.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9,034.21</b>



# Fall Community Yard Sale



**Saturday, September 18**  
*(Note Date Change)*  
**9 am to 2 pm**

**It's not too early to reserve  
your spaces for \$20 each.  
Tables are an additional \$5**

**Contact Tammy  
at 301-253-0044**

## August Birthdays

- 1 Henry King
- 3 Chad Kunkle
- 4 Glenn Lewis
- 5 Sam Lynagh
- 6 Elaine Falk
- 9 Ally Lind
- 12 Terri Sherwood
- 13 Mary Ann Davis
- 16 Jo Ann True
- 24 Susan Park
- 25 Andrew Wilson
- 27 Sean Falk
- 29 Lincoln Verner




## School Supplies

We are continuing to collect school supplies to help fill the backpacks of needy students in the Damascus Community, so that they can start the new school year off fresh and bright! Please place any and all items that you wish to donate in the large blue bins in the church vestibule *by Sunday, August 15*. They will be picked up sometime that week.

You may also donate monetarily by using PayPal or by mailing a check to Faith Connections, P.O. Box 28, Damascus, MD 20872. Please be sure to write "School Supply Drive" on the memo line.

Thanks to all of you who have already shopped and donated as well as to those of you who are still planning to. All donations are greatly appreciated!



## Electronic Giving

The Finance Committee would like to remind all of you of our two newest ways to give...

You can click here —

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/wesleygrove>

to give a one-time gift or to set up a recurring weekly, biweekly, or monthly monetary gift that will automatically arrive in our church bank account from yours.

You can also text to this phone number — 301-720-0138 — to give as you wish.

And of course, you can still continue to mail or place your offerings in the collection plate on Sunday mornings. Please know that we appreciate each and every gift as well as all of you, the givers.

## Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2021

### In Attendance:

Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone, and Pastor Nick Works.

**Opening:** Bob began the meeting at 7:34 pm.

### Devotions:

Carol led a prayer and read a daily Bible verse from Galatians 2:20.

### Prayer Requests:

- \* Glenn Lewis is hospitalized in Florida while trying to get his blood levels regulated.
- \* Lewis Burdette and Marty Stone could both use some prayers for healing.
- \* Judy Hughes is having eye laser surgery tomorrow.
- \* Ed Williams is sick and in the hospital. He is also dealing with his failing kidneys.
- \* Jonathan Works is doing well. He graduated from Boot Camp at Fort Jackson, SC last week.
- \* Jenny Mirani is doing well after her back surgery two weeks ago.

### Good News Items:

- \* Pastor Nick and his family have joined our charge!
- \* Attendance in church is back up to our before Covid-19 numbers. We are averaging about 30 people per Sunday from both in-person and via Zoom worship.

### May Minutes:

Bob motioned to approve the minutes from our May meeting, Rick seconded, and all were in favor.

### Old Business:

The large dead tree by Woodfield Road has been taken down and cleaned up. The new defibrillator has been hung at the church, and the old one at the hall has had new batteries installed. Woodfield Community Day with DSA on Saturday, June 19 was not as successful as it could have been if it had been advertised and promoted by all groups involved.

### New Business:

Please return your family's list of blessings to the church office, so a new bulletin board can be created in the vestibule.

### Committee Reports:

**Communications** – We continue to send cards to all in need just to let them know that their church family is thinking of them and praying for them. Tammy continues to update our website and signboards, while Cathy takes care of these cards and our Facebook page.

**Education** – Confirmation classes will finish this fall. Pastor Karen, Pastor Nick, and Tammy are planning and teaching these lessons. We hope to have our confirmands take their vows before Christmas. These three are also discussing adult education studies. We seem to have some that still prefer in-person classes on

Sunday mornings, but others seem to like online lessons during the week. We are trying to make something work for everyone involved. Watch for more to come on this topic.

**Fellowship** – Dates for our annual fall community yard sale and charge picnic have been announced --- Saturday, September 18 for the yard sale and Sunday, September 19 for the picnic.

**Finance** – Our income and expenses are continuing to do well. All of our bills are paid, and we have money in the bank. Our required yearly audit was completed by the deadline of June 30, and the results were submitted to the BWC. We are beginning to receive information from Conference about working on our 2022 budget and completing it by our Church Conference in November.

**Missions** – Thanks to all who donated boxes of cereal in May and June. We are currently collecting school supplies through mid-August to fill the backpacks of needy students in our community. We met in June and discussed many other possible future projects. We plan to meet again in October to plan our community holiday giving projects for this Christmas season.

**SPRC** – We have not yet advertised for a new Music Director. After much discussion, it was decided to have an open meeting next week to discuss our musical needs (e.g. – leading hymns, directing choirs, picking music, playing instruments) and to explore different options of how to alleviate these needs. Cathy volunteered to inform our congregants of this meeting as well as to organize and run it.

**Trustees** – We plan to update the outdoor lighting that already exists on our property soon. The electric company has been called about repairing the loose hanging wire in the church parking lot. Rick is in contact with the cell tower company about replacing the lights that are out on the flag pole and church sign at the hall. A church clean-up day is planned for Saturday, August 28 beginning at 8 am. We will repaint our parking lot lines on Thursday, September 16 at 9 am. We plan to remove the plywood from the windows on the little, white house and replace it with Plexiglas. The gutters on the Staley house will be cleaned out and repaired soon.

**Worship** – Our Christmas in July worship service is just two weeks away on July 25. Let Tammy know if you have favorite carols and/or would like to sing a solo/duet/trio/etc.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Karen reflected on a poem by the late Mary Oliver called "I Don't Want to Lead a Small Life." This is a perfect calling for us to move forward as individuals and as a church. We are all unique in our own ways. Be brave, and seize the moment. Are we open and ready to live our lives fully? Our world needs us to be.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 13 --- Cathy will lead our devotions.

**Closing:** Bob adjourned the meeting 8:48 pm.

# August 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM— Worship Service  <i>Pastor Nick on Vacation</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:00 AM— Worship Service  <i>Pastor Karen on Vacation</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion — <i>Last day to bring school supplies.</i>	16 7:30 PM— Fellowship Commit- tee Meeting	17 7:30 PM— Lay Leadership Committee Meeting	18 12:00 PM— Ladies Lunch Out at Cracker Barrel in Frederick	19  <i>Deadline for Sept. Newsletter Submissions</i>	20	21
22 10:00 AM— Worship Service	23	24	25 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting (Location TBD)	26	27	28 8:00 AM— Church Clean-Up Day — All hands and tools are needed!
29 10:00 AM— Worship Service	30 7:30 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	31				

# **Wesley Grove United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

## **As a church family that...**

- \* covenants to walk together in Christ's love,
- \* believes that all persons are created equal, and
- \* affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

**we welcome to our work and worship all —** regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic circumstance.

**We're on the Web!**  
[wesleygroveumc.org](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

# **Enjoy These Dog-Days of Summer!**



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

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