

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

February 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I received a small package in the mail the other day. When I saw that it was from my sister, I realized that it must be a belated Christmas present. Upon opening the gift, I found an ornament in the shape of an elephant.

Digging a little deeper into the bag, I stumbled across a card that read:



In the wild, female elephants are known as fierce protectors. And when one of their sisters is suffering, they circle up around her. They close in tight, keep watch, and even kick dust around her to mask her vulnerable scent from predators.

And yet, we are the same. This is who we are, and who we are meant to be for each other. Sometimes we're the ones in the middle. Sometimes we are the ones kicking up the dust with fierce, fierce love. But the circle remains.

Thank God the circle remains. I am so grateful for my circle of sisters, brothers, neighbors, and friends here in the South Damascus Charge. I am thankful that God "gathers us in" to worship, fellowship, study, sing, eat, serve, and pray together. And I so appreciate the many ways that our churches seek to make our circle of sisters and brothers even wider. Your many acts of charity, caring, and love for those both near and far do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

There is an oldy, but goody, hymn titled, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." I'm sure we can all hum the tune. But, today, I'd like for you to pay particular attention to the third verse:

*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms, He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.*

This verse reminds us that no matter what happens in our lives, Jesus is but a prayer away. In our greatest need, Jesus is there, wrapping His loving arms around us and shielding us from every enemy.

May God continue to be your refuge and your fortress, and may we, God's beloved sons and daughters, continue to "circle up" around our sisters and brothers, both near and far.

Peace to each of you,
Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

February 6, 2022

Isaiah 6: 1-13
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 13, 2022

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 6:17-26

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Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 John 6:27-38

February 27, 2022

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
 Luke 9:28-43



December 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	\$1,502.13
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$118.32
Payroll Taxes	\$114.91
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$846.45
Property Insurance	\$1,535.25
Administrative Expenses	\$184.44
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	\$1,688.07
In and Out Expenses	\$119.70
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$10,734.33



February Birthdays

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



Income

Weekly Collections	\$12,203.62
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Payment for serving DVFD Annual Banquet	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$409.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$15,716.83





Finance News



Jim Kemp, Past Chair

As you read this, think positively and happily about Wesley Grove and our church family. We just ended 2021, and our church ended the year on the plus side because our multiple methods of giving remained faithful and strong.

Giving is a big word, encompassing a variety of things --- using our time and our talents to further the missions and ministries of the Church; being present at our worship services, fellowship activities, and outreach events; witnessing to our own personal experiences with Christ; and of course, tithing in our weekly collections.

During this past year, our Board of Trustees and some of our members saved this church a lot of money by using our own talents and our own time to get the needed jobs done and not hiring outside firms and laborers to do our work and maintenance. These many jobs included :

- Painting the ballfield pavilion,
- Painting new lines on our parking lots,
- Cleaning and trimming the bushes, trees, beds, and gutters around the parsonage,
- Repairing, replacing, and re-staining our playground structures,
- Rebuilding our trash compound after it burned in late October,
- Setting up and taking down our outdoor Nativity and Christmas tree lights,
- Decorating the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the Christmas Season,
- Doing the technical work to run our sound system,
- Livestreaming our weekly worship services,
- Making our church Covid-safe for everyone,
- Making items, setting up, and cleaning up

from our annual craft bazaar,

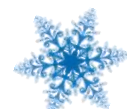
- Contributing home-baked goods for our bake sales,
- Serving at our fundraisers - the fall community yard sale, biweekly Lions Club dinner meetings, and several catered meals within our community,
- Donating food, warm clothing, Christmas presents, and monetary gifts for our local mission and outreach projects, and
- Serving at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg.

These are just my thoughts and views. I know that there are many more things that happened here at Wesley Grove last year that I forgot to mention, and if you did one of those things, please know we appreciate you and all you do for this church as well.

Wesley Grove is indeed small, but we are a very strong and active community-minded congregation. Please continue to think positively that we will get through these different Covid variants and come out even stronger on the other end as we continue to combine our resources of time, talents, and treasures to make even more faithful disciples of Christ.



Education News



Tammy Monarch, Chair

We have just started our study of the Holy Lands — how they looked and felt in the time of Jesus compared to how they look and feel now. Our lessons are based on a variety of resources, including a book called *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford as well as numerous slides taken by Pastor Nick on his travels to Israel and the surrounding area. Please feel free to join us any Sunday. We are an open group of mixed ages with many different levels of Biblical expertise, and we would welcome any newcomers!



Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

In Attendance: Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Linda Chatterton, Pastor Karen Davis, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Terri Sherwood, Jay Swearingen, and Pastor Nick Works.

Opening: Chairperson Bob opened the meeting at 7:32 pm. Pastor Nick led a brief devotion focusing on the Church not being a building, but its members and all of their talents and skills.

Good News Items: All of the Christmas Season events went well, especially the Bazaar which made over \$4,000, the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and our Caroling Caravan.

Both Pastor Karen and the Trustees were pleased with the first snow removal of the season last week and all of the communications with that company.

Old Minutes: The November Meeting minutes were accepted and approved as presented in the December newsletter.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Becky presented for Brian his desire to have this council consider purchasing a new Nativity scene for outdoors. Brian believes these figures that he found online would be easier to set up and take down and would need no maintenance over the coming years.

Bishop Easterling has provided communication about the Baltimore-Washington Conference's share of the Boy Scouts' settlement with victims of sexual abuse. It has agreed to pay \$1.3 million of the \$3 billion settlement that was reached.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Cathy said that at our next meeting, she will provide a count of greeting cards sent, and she asks that we let her know when a card needs to be mailed to someone in need.

Education: Tammy shared that we finished both Advent book studies before Christmas, and those went very well. We are preparing to start our new Sunday School study of the Holy Lands on Sun-

day, January 30. Both pastors will help lead these lessons, and Pastor Nick will share photos from his trips.

Fellowship: Becky reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for January 31.

Finance: Rick reported that we are in good shape financially and that giving went very well in 2021. Ollie has forwarded paperwork and software to Linda, so that she can begin her new position of financial secretary.

Missions: Judy thanked everyone for helping with the Christmas giving project for the three families we sponsored and especially Linda for assisting with the distribution of these gifts. She also noted that the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen work went well in November, and we only need small group of 4-6 to accomplish this task at this time. Our next Soup Kitchen date is January 31.

SPRC: Both pastor evaluations were completed in early December, and new goals were established for 2022. Steven will schedule a committee meeting soon.

Trustees: The parsonage oven needs to be replaced. Terri volunteered to shop some prices and will report those back to the Trustees. Gutter projects were completed on the parsonage, hall, and rental property. The dumpster enclosure was rebuilt after fire damage, and a new dumpster is now in place. Terri reported that all kitchen work is complete.

Worship: Cathy announced that the first meeting of this new year will be this Wednesday, January 12.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen presented "Clean Up Your House" and indicated she was personally working on her own house, her daily prayers, her exercise routine, etc. to feel better and healthier in all ways. She recommended that we all consider doing the same for getting a fresh start to this new year. She reported that she has made 12 phone calls, two home visits, and performed one funeral so far in 2022.

Closing: Our next scheduled meeting date is Monday, March 21. Prayer and devotions will be led by Cathy. Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.



February 2022

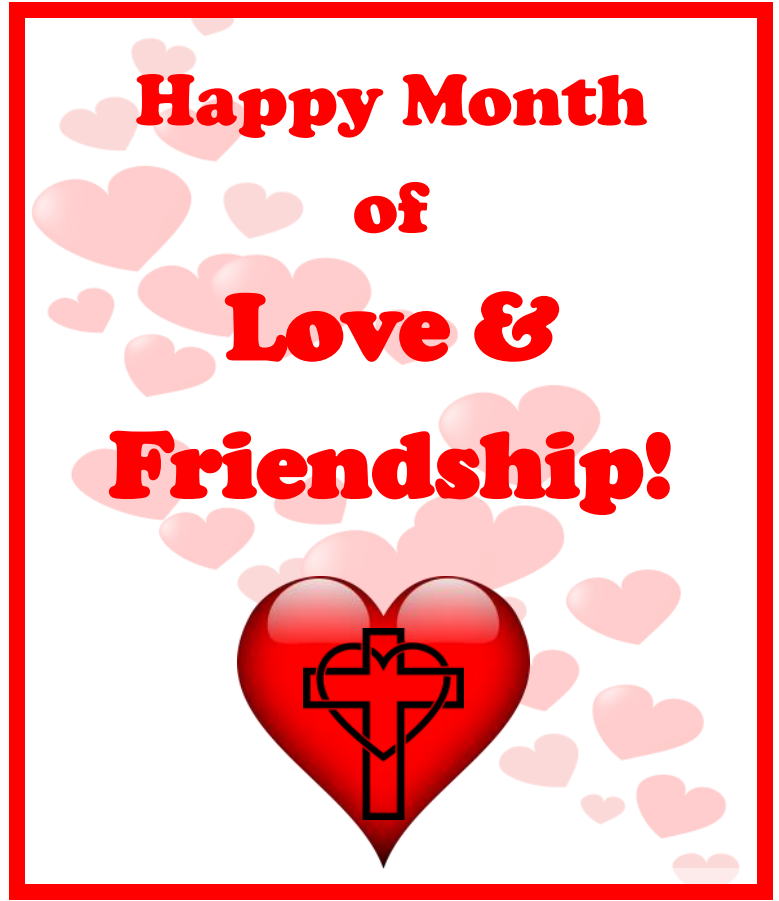


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	2 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	3	4 <i>Deadline to sign up with Becky for Covert Cupid Program</i>	5
6 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	7	8	9	10	11 March Newsletter Deadline	12
13 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	14 ♥ HAPPY Valentine's DAY ♥	15 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	16 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ Twin Arch Tavern in Mt. Airy	17	18	19
20 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	21	22	23	24 7:30 PM— Missions Com- mittee Meeting	25	26
27 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	1	2 7:30 PM— Ash Wednesday Worship Service	3	4	5	

 **Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**
Church Phone: 301-253-2894
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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



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