

Wesley Grove Messenger

June 2024

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The year is 1521. In Germany, the nobles and clerics of the German Church have gathered to put one mad monk named Martin on trial for heresy. The Catholic Church is marshalling its strength to combat the growing tide of protestors like Martin Luther in Germany and Ulrich Zwingli in Switzerland.

At the same time, one monarch has the notion to write a theological treatise defending the Catholic faith from these Protestants: King Henry VIII of England. Henry is appalled that Luther and many German nobles like him are breaking from the Church over doctrines and practices that have long been central to the faith in the European Church. This treatise written by Henry is read by the Pope, and Henry is celebrated with an official title granted to him and all of his future descendants. He is proclaimed "Defender of the Faith."

Even to this day, when the entire title of the English monarch is spoken aloud, you will always hear this title mixed in with several others. When Charles was crowned king a little over a year ago, he was proclaimed, "Charles III, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and His other realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

Defender of the Faith: Henry received this title for defending his Catholic faith in 1521. An odd twist of historical fate is that just 13 years later in 1534, Henry was no longer defending the Catholic faith, but rather, he was actively undermining it. It is popularly believed that Henry left the Catholic Church because the Pope refused to grant him an annulment from his wife, Catherine of Aragon, so that he could marry another, hopefully more fertile, woman named Anne Boleyn. History has made this narrative pretty famous. There are TV shows about Henry, Catherine, Anne, and the many other women of the Tudor family. There are also books, movies, and even one very funny song about Henry the 8th... "I am, I am."

The truth is that Henry did break from the Catholic Church because of his dissatisfaction with his wife, but there were a host of other reasons as well. He had once believed that the Protestants were wrong to criticize and leave the Church for what they saw as failings. He also thought their positions were too reactionary. One example of this is the doctrine of Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper. Catholics believe that when a priest blesses a wafer and chalice of wine, the bread changes into the actual body of Jesus, and the wine changes into the actual blood of Christ. This is the doctrine of *transubstantiation*. The Church had always taught that bread and wine are changed into the body of Jesus because in John 6:53-56, Jesus says, "Unless you eat my body and drink my blood, you have no life in me." Therefore, we must eat and drink the very body and blood of Jesus.

The Protestants say this is just a metaphor — the body and blood of Jesus are symbolically present in the meal we take at the Lord's Table, not actually present. Henry saw this debate from both the Catholic perspective and from the Protestant perspective, and then, he suggested that we try a third way of looking at this, a middle way. He developed the concept

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## Lectionary Readings



### June 2, 2024

1 Samuel 3:1-20  
 Psalm 139:1-18  
 2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
 Mark 2:23—3:6

### June 9, 2024

*Retirement Celebration for Pastor Karen  
 Christian Education Sunday*

1 Samuel 8:4-20  
 Psalm 138  
 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1  
 Mark 3:20-35

### June 16, 2024

*Father's Day*

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13  
 Psalm 20 or 72  
 2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
 Mark 4:26-34

### June 23, 2024

1 Samuel 17:1-49  
 Psalm 9:9-20  
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
 Mark 4:35-41

### June 30, 2024

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
 Psalm 130  
 2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
 Mark 5:21-43



## April 2024 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                                 |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| BWC Mission Share                               | \$1,432.38        |
| Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)           | \$1,610.33        |
| Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary) | \$417.67          |
| Church Secretary's Wages                        | \$1,775.57        |
| Organist / Pianist                              | \$400.00          |
| Worker's Compensation Insurance                 | \$0.00            |
| BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate          | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                                   | \$135.84          |
| Capital Improvement Costs                       | \$0.00            |
| Grass Cutting Costs                             | \$0.00            |
| Snow Plowing Costs                              | \$0.00            |
| Groundskeeper Costs                             | \$0.00            |
| Custodian's Salary                              | \$350.00          |
| Programs                                        | \$128.82          |
| Property Insurance                              | \$0.00            |
| Administrative Expenses                         | \$117.32          |
| Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses            | \$402.58          |
| Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses         | \$113.92          |
| Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost        | \$305.00          |
| Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution       | \$342.20          |
| Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs          | \$15.34           |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs                    | \$1,001.47        |
| Miscellaneous                                   | \$352.30          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                           | <b>\$8,900.74</b> |

### Income

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections                | \$11,250.00        |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint | \$2,232.36         |
| Rental Property Income to Church  | \$2,000.00         |
| Lion's Club Income                | \$630.00           |
| Use of Hall                       | \$0.00             |
| <b>Total Income</b>               | <b>\$16,112.36</b> |

### June Birthdays

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Paul Verner     | 17 Jennifer Hyde |
| 2 Betty Eisenhaur | Canó             |
| 4 Brianna Powell  | Ralph Ketchum    |
| 6 Jim Burns       | 19 Mehrle Staley |
| Bob Burke         | Danny Wilson     |
| 7 Tim Lee         | 27 Emilia Cano   |
| 11 Tim Benson     | Penelope Cano    |
| 12 Scott Verner   | 29 Bruce Walter  |
| 14 Sam Allman     | 30 Adam Wilson   |



## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

*“Don’t cry because it’s over.  
Smile because it happened.”*

— from Dr. Seuss —  
— paraphrased by Christopher Roche —

With the above words firmly in mind, we will gather on Sunday, June 9, to bid farewell, bon voyage, best wishes, and Godspeed into retirement to Pastor Karen!



A joint worship service with our two sister churches, Mt. Tabor and Salem, starts the day at 11 am in the Wesley Grove sanctuary; there will be special music and an opportunity to share in worship with both Pastor Karen and Pastor Nick. Please wear various shades of blue, which is Karen’s favorite color.

After the service, we’ll move across the parking lot to the fellowship hall for appetizers and a short program, followed by a catered lunch. You only need to bring any cards or small personal gifts you wish to give Pastor Karen — and perhaps, in spite of the quote, a package of tissues.

If you have any digital photos of church events from the past eight years during Pastor Karen’s tenure with us, please email them to Tammy in the church office.

We’ll share a meal again the next Sunday, June 16, when we gather at 9:30 am for our annual fellowship breakfast in honor of Father’s Day. Please sign up in the vestibule to give us an idea of about how many will attend, and women, please see Becky if you can help with cleaning up.

The Christian Fellowship Committee will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, June 5, at 5:30 pm to firm up and make additional plans for the summer and fall. If you have suggestions or ideas for future events, please talk to Becky or any other member of the committee before the day of this meeting.



## Mission News

*Linda Chatterton, Chair*

We delivered almost 250 personal hygiene items to Mt. Pleasant Nursing Home in Mt. Airy during the month of May. They were enthusiastically received and will definitely be used. We plan to continue to collect these items, so please keep these residents in mind during your summer travels.

A contribution was made to the Damascus High School Post Prom Party once again this year. The prom was held on Friday, May 10, and we’re sure that many of our high school juniors and seniors enjoyed this fun and safe event!

Damascus HELP needs your help! We routinely donate food to help fill its pantry, but the organization is also in need of physical help as some of its volunteers are no longer able to serve. Drivers are needed to deliver food and to take people to their doctor appointments. Folks also are needed to help answer the HELP phone line. This job is set up to be fairly easy and not overwhelming as it can be done from just about anywhere as the line is forwarded to your phone number for the day, and you can sign up for just one day at a time.

If you are interested and/or would like more information, please contact Linda at 410 -218-9243.

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of *consubstantiation*, which states that the bread and wine are indeed both bread and wine, but they are also the actual body and blood of Jesus. This doctrine is a both/and belief, not an either/or belief, and it is what the Anglican tradition (known today as the Episcopal Church) is most known for. These followers can view a problem from both sides of the issue and then think to themselves. Can we visualize this same problem in a third way that is somewhere in between the other two views?

This is what I love about the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. These Christians often seek to find a third or middle way. We no longer live in a world of black and white, but we do live in a world that constantly asks us to take sides. We are often told we should pick this side or that side: in politics, in elections, in social and ethical issues. We could take any disagreement in the Church or in the world today, and if we were to follow our Anglican/Episcopal ancestors, we could, or even should, be looking for a different solution — a third way — to reach mutual satisfaction.

Thanks be to God for a king that was willing to step back and examine his own theological understanding when he was older. Thus, I encourage each of you still today to be willing to look back at various conflicts and problems and then say to yourself:

How can I view this problem or challenge in a third, and yes, different way, but one that is still mutually acceptable for all of those involved???

With Christ's love,

Pastor Nick

Administrative Council Notes

Monday, May 13, 2024

In Attendance: Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Pastor Nick Works.

Opening: Bob started the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Devotions: Bob read a Bible passage from Matthew.

Prayer Requests: Continue to keep Carol Stone and Jeff Monarch in your prayers.

Good News: Holy Week, Easter, and Mother's Day Breakfast were all well-attended. It has been helpful having two additional soundboard operators.

Last Meeting's Minutes: Were accepted as printed in the April newsletter and approved by all members.

Old Business: Tammy will attend Annual Conference later this month in Steven's absence.

New Business: None.

Committee Reports:

* **Communications** - Frequent cards and contacts with shut-ins, sick, hospitalized, and grieving continue.

* **Education** - Sunday School study on Book of Acts and attendance have both been good. Church History Class led by Pastor Nick has been going very well.

June 9 will be the last day for Sunday School.

* **Fellowship** - Due to rainy weather, our spring yard sale is cancelled. We are planning a retirement celebration for Pastor Karen on June 9.

* **Finance** - We have received \$3,150 as a result of the letter that was sent out requesting help with the cost of the church roof replacement.

* **Lay Leadership** - Annual Conference is May 29-31. Tammy shared what will be voted on and asked for our input regarding changing the number of districts in our conference from the current 8 to 6.

* **Missions** - We made our annual donation to the After-Prom Party at Damascus High School.

* **SPRC** - We recently met with DS Hand, and we are awaiting Bishop Easterling's approval of our pastor requests.

* **Trustees** - Church roof is complete, and the invoice will be paid at the end of June when our annuities mature. Metal section of the fellowship hall roof needs to be replaced. Evidence of water leakage has been found. \$9,000 from various memorial funds will help pay for the cost of this new roof. Rick has completed the inspection of our rental property and reported that the house is being maintained well and is in good condition. Back door of sanctuary is starting to rot; Jim will inspect and advise. We have a water leak in the parsonage basement, so we have called a plumber for an assessment and repairs. We plan to solicit three estimates for deep cleaning of the parsonage after Pastor Karen moves to her new home.

* **Worship** - Our next meeting is supposed to be June 13, but we need to reschedule due to Church History Class on Thursday nights and forthcoming information about our new assistant pastor and his/her start date.

Pastors' Reports: Pastor Karen is in the process of finding a new home and continuing to perform her pastoral duties with visitation and making calls. Her moving date is June 13. Pastor Nick has been keeping up with his outreach goals and visitation. He is also completing another of his pastoral goals by conducting the Church History Class.


Next Meeting: Monday, July 8 at 7 pm — Becky will lead devotions.

Closing: Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

June 2024



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2
9:30 AM —
Sunday School
11:00 AM —
Worship Service with
Communion | 3 | 4
5:00 PM —
Lions Club Dinner
& Meeting | 5
5:30 PM —
Fellowship Com-
mittee Meeting via
Zoom | 6
7:00 PM —
Church History
Class in the Hall
and via Zoom | 7 | 1
8
10:00 AM—
Choir Practice |
| 9
<i>Celebrate Karen
Education Sunday</i>
9:30 AM —
Sunday School
11:00 AM —
Worship Service
12:30 PM—
Retirement Luncheon | 10
6:00 PM—
Charge SPRC
Meeting at WG and
via Zoom | 11 | 12 | 13
7:00 PM —
Church History
Class in the Hall
and via Zoom

<i>Pastor Karen's
Moving Day</i> | 14
<i>Flag Day</i>
 | 15 |
| 16
<i>Father's Day</i>
9:30 AM —
Father's Day Break-
fast
11:00 AM —
Worship Service | 17
7:00 PM —
Board of Trustees
Meeting | 18

<i>Deadline for
July Newsletter</i> | 19
12:00 PM —
Lunch Out at
Memories Charcoal
House in Mt. Airy | 20
7 | 21 | 22 |
| 23
9:30 AM —
Charge Worship Ser-
vice at Salem UMC to
hear student pastor
candidate preach | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30
11:00 AM—
Charge Worship Ser-
vice at Mt. Tabor to
hear student pastor
candidate preach | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

As a Church Family that...

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

We Welcome All to Our Work and Worship,
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic
circumstance.



PASTOR KAREN IS RETIRING!

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
HER 32 YEARS OF MINISTRY**

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 11 AM

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
WITH CATERED LUNCHEON AND BRIEF PROGRAM**

**EMAIL TAMMY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE TO RSVP
BY MONDAY, JUNE 3**

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

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