

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

July 2024

From the Pastor's Desk...

Walking the Road to Assos

Luke tells a story in Acts 20 about the Apostle Paul making his way back to Jerusalem from his third missionary trip across the Mediterranean Region. Paul was returning with an offering that he had been collecting from various Gentile churches for many years for the poor saints in Jerusalem. Today, we can read about this collection in several of St. Paul's letters, specifically in Romans and 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

The purpose of this collection was to show solidarity between the Gentile Christians from Paul's churches and the poor Christians in Jerusalem. Paul wanted to show that even though the people who made up his ministry were, by and large, of a different racial and ethnic background than Jewish Christians, and even though these two groups might never meet, their shared faith in the Lord and their shared baptism meant that they were all part of the larger Family of God. He hoped this collection would cement the Body of Christ into one large, united family.

We don't talk much about Paul's collection today; instead, we tend to focus on the other important facets of his ministry, but for Paul, this was probably the most critical feature of his ministry. This money was the proof that his ministry was a legitimate, authentic, Christian endeavor and that he had kept the promise he had made at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. This promise was that he and his churches would always remember the poor.

But just because it was important, doesn't mean taking this collection back to Jerusalem was easy. Paul encountered significant resistance from within his own ministry team to the idea of him returning to Jerusalem and delivering the collection. Everyone agreed that it was right to deliver this money to the poor, but most of them thought Paul was crazy to take the collection back to Jerusalem himself.

Acts 20 tells the story of Paul's discernment about whether he should be the one to return to Jerusalem. At this point in the story, he has crossed back into Asia Minor from Greece, and he was in Troas (near the ancient city of Troy) with several key members of his missionary team: Luke, Timothy, Titus, and others. They were begging Paul to send the collection with an emissary. Instead, he asked the others to sail from Troas to Assos, while he walked by himself along a Roman road to that city in Asia Minor. Paul was really struggling with his calling to take this Gentile offering back to Jerusalem and give it to the saints there, and he wanted to spend some time alone and discern what he should do. So, over the next three days, he walked 60 miles trying to determine just that. And after those three long, solitary days, Paul was convinced that he must be the one to carry the collection to Jerusalem, no matter what it might cost him.

So, Paul continued on to Jerusalem, and as he feared, he was arrested there in the Temple. He then spent the next three years in a jail cell in Caesarea Maritima, imprisoned by Felix and Festus, two regional governors who wanted substantial bribes for his release, but Paul refused to pay them.

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# Lectionary Readings

## July 7, 2024

### July 4th Weekend

*Pastor Nick, preaching*

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

## July 14, 2024

*Frank Miller, preaching*

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

## July 21, 2024

### Christmas in July

*Pastor Nick, preaching*

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-12

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

## July 28, 2024

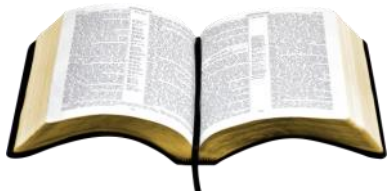
*TBD, preaching*

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21



Please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to serve as our liturgist during a Sunday morning worship service.



## May 2024 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                                 |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| BWC Mission Share                               | \$1,432.38        |
| Senior 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                        | \$1,758.74        |
| Organist / Pianist                              | \$0.00            |
| Worker's Compensation Insurance                 | \$0.00            |
| BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate          | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                                   | \$134.54          |
| Capital Improvement Costs                       | \$0.00            |
| Grass Cutting Costs                             | \$540.00          |
| Snow Plowing Costs                              | \$0.00            |
| Groundskeeper Costs                             | \$0.00            |
| Custodian's Salary                              | \$420.00          |
| Programs                                        | \$536.96          |
| Property Insurance                              | \$0.00            |
| Administrative Expenses                         | \$152.07          |
| 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                    | \$793.69          |
| Miscellaneous                                   | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                           | <b>\$8,975.42</b> |

### Income

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections                        | \$4,550.00         |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint         | \$2,232.36         |
| Rental Property Income to Church          | \$2,000.00         |
| Roofing Project Collections               | \$4,250.00         |
| Money Market Acct. Moved to General Acct. | \$2,223.96         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                       | <b>\$15,256.32</b> |

## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*



Does the blistering heat outside have you dreaming of cool winter days... maybe even snow? Well, we can't provide the snow and colder temperatures, but we can provide a taste of the Holiday Season to help you get through the summer heat and humidity. Dig out your favorite holiday recipes, your **red** and **green** attire, and plan to join your Wesley Grove Family for our annual Christmas in July event on Sunday, July 21. We'll gather in the fellowship hall after our 10 am Christmas-themed worship service for some light appetizers and games, followed by a potluck lunch that'll have you forgetting summer's heat for a while. The Christian Fellowship Committee will provide turkey, ham, beverages, and paper goods; please bring one or two of your favorite holiday dishes to share.



Our July calendar also features the annual Celebrate Damascus Parade on Friday, July 12. We will once again participate with a patriotic-themed entry; anyone who wants to join us in riding along the parade route, please let Becky know. We'll wear the royal blue Wesley Grove shirts that we purchased for last year's parade, and there are several of those still available for anyone who needs one. Please plan to arrive in the Damascus High School parking lot by 6 pm before the roads close. Or if participating in the parade itself doesn't work for you, join your friends and neighbors in lining the parade route to cheer all of the entries on. The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department offers food for sale at the carnival grounds throughout the evening, which finishes off with a fireworks display starting about 9 pm.



## Parsonage Yard Clean-Up

Join us on Saturday, July 13 beginning at 8 am to clean up the yard surrounding our parsonage. We will be trimming bushes, pulling weeds, cleaning out gutters, raking leaves, etc., so bring shovels, wheelbarrows, trimmers, blowers, buckets, rakes, and of course, gardening gloves. We plan to work until 3 pm, but the more hands we have, the sooner the work will be done! Even if you can come for only an hour or two, you, *and your hands*, will be greatly appreciated!



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During this time, Paul appealed to the Roman Emperor, a level-headed man named Nero. *And how could that possibly go wrong, you ask?* Well, Paul traveled by sea from Judea to Rome as a prisoner in chains, and along the way, he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta, but eventually, he still made his way on to Rome. Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, tells us that Paul remained there preaching the Gospel to all who would come and listen to him until his death some years later.

Paul's time on that road to Assos was critical for him to fortify himself to do the hard thing that he was called to do. Today, we also walk a road of discernment. We begin a new chapter in our Christian life together. What is next for our church? Will we make quick, easy choices about our future, or will we take the time to reflect and make the hard choices necessary to fulfill our mission? Those questions remain to be answered, but with God's help, we will all push forward and decide what is best for us and our church!

With His Peace,
Pastor Nick

July Birthdays

- 9 Rick Monarch
- 11 Jimmy Johnson
- 15 William Briggs
- 20 Debbie Pesce
- 23 Jim Kemp
- 25 Skip Ketchum
- 28 Becca Benson



School Supply Drive

This summer, we are again helping needy students within the Damascus Community start the new school year off fresh by donating brand-new school supplies. The list of needed supplies is below. Please place any and all items that you wish to donate in the large blue bins in the church vestibule **by Sunday, August 11**. Thanks to all of you in advance for your much-needed and much-appreciated generosity!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Spiral notebooks | Lined paper |
| Composition books | Pencils |
| Pens (blue, black, and red) | Crayons |
| Markers (thin and thick) | Scissors |
| Colored pencils | Glue sticks |
| Erasers and eraser caps | Rulers |
| Dividers (5-7 subjects) | Pencil boxes |
| Pocket folders | Binders |
| Highlighters | Post-It notes |
| Dry erase markers | Glue bottles |

Donations of new or “almost new” backpacks are also very much appreciated. Please bring these to the blue bins as well.



Blessing of Pastor Karen by Pastor Nick on Her Last Sunday with Us — June 9, 2024

Pastor Karen's New Address

Rev. Karen Davis
1036 Chesapeake Drive
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Have You Planned Ahead?

Don't leave your loved ones in the lurch! Wesley Grove has a number of cemetery plots available at \$1,000 each. Contact Jim Kemp at 301-253-2859 if you have any questions and/or are interested in purchasing one or more.



July 2024



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----|--|---|---|--|
| | 1
6 PM—
Charge SPRC
Meeting via Zoom | 2 | 3 | 4
<i>Happy
Independence
Day!</i>

USA | 5 | 6 |
| 7
10 AM—
Worship Service
with Communion
<i>Wear red, white, &
blue.</i> | 8
6 PM—
Finance Committee
Meeting
7 PM—
Administrative
Council Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12
6 PM—
Participants Report
7 PM—
Celebrate Damascus
Parade | 13
8 AM —3 PM —
Parsonage Yard
Clean-Up Day |
| 14
10 AM—
Worship Service | 15 | 16 | 17
12 PM—
Lunch Out at Le-
do's in Damascus
<i>All are welcome!</i> | 18
<i>Deadline for
August
Newsletter
Submissions</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 <i>Xmas in July</i>
10 AM—
Worship Service
12 PM—
Holiday Luncheon
<i>Wear red & green.</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28
10 AM—
Worship Service | 29 | 30 | 31
<i>Pastor Nick and
Family Leaving for
Vacation in England
and Scotland</i> | | | |

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.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org



**CELEBRATE
CHRIST'S BIRTH
in the summer!**

Sunday, July 21

**Christmas
Worship Service
and
Holiday Luncheon**

Celebration begins at 10 am

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
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GaitHERsburg, MD 20882