

THE WESLEY JOURNAL



Wesley United Methodist Church,
www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org

3239 Carrollton Rd., Hampstead, MD 21074
wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org 410-374-4027

Our Vision is to be a community filled with the hope and love of Jesus. Our Mission is to make disciples by growing & learning, worshipping & praying, and serving & connecting.

From the desk of the Pastor... *Is he a Christian?*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

I am blessed in that my daughters have always been able to come to me with their enthusiasm over a new young man that they have met. Very recently, one of those daughters was providing me with a litany of all the virtues of an individual she was dating. After hearing about how this young man is truly God's gift to women, I asked the inevitable question, "Is he a Christian?" My daughters have come to know that this is truly the most important attribute to be ascribed to any male they wish to introduce to their mother. While they

"I believe, in my heart, that such circumstances hold eternal significance.

are sometimes offended by my "rain on their parade," I do not hold back my feelings about the matter. I believe, in my heart, that such circumstances hold eternal significance.

February is the month of love, and on February 1st, Denny and I will celebrate five years of marriage. Many of you have witnessed our relationship from day one, and were present on the day of our wedding. While we cannot boast of many decades together like some of you can, the quality of this relationship makes up for whatever might be missing in terms of quantity. The reason? Jesus Christ. One of the things one learns about marriage is that the novelty of a new relationship wears off. Individuals in a marriage relationship see one another at our best and worst. That well-dressed man one fell in love with has annoying habits. That "perfect woman" has a selfish streak. We learn quickly that being together for the long haul requires more than just physical, mental and even spiritual attraction. Couples need the Lord.

Like my daughters, I dated a lot before my second marriage. As one of my friends put it to me one day, "You have to kiss a lot of frogs before you meet your prince." Invariably, these relationships with "worldly men of the world" would begin to decline once reality set in. There might have been looks. There might have been natural intelligence and witty banter. There might have been money and property.

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside This Issue:

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Updated Contact Info., Congratulations, Our Condolences, Inclement Weather Policy, Members to Keep in Prayer	2
"Thank You"s	3
Pastor's Message Continued, Wesley Book Club, Pancake Breakfasts	4
WRM Volunteer Orientation, "Bless This Church," "Did Ya Know?" Finance Tidbit	5
Youth Winter Retreat, Youth Group Calendar	6
Troop 380's Annual Scout Auction!	7
Feb. Lectionary, Pies, Cobblers and Tarts!, Planned Giving	8
Library Notes	9
VANCO Reminder, UMM Minutes, Men's Retreat	10
UMW Notes, Outreach Notes	11
Administrative Council Planning Retreat Minutes	12-14
February Calendar	15

February 10th is Scouting Sunday!

Our Boy and Girl Scout Troops have been invited to participate in the 11 AM Worship Service with our church family. This is a great opportunity to be in touch with young people who we pass in the church's very own hallways.

**Help us celebrate our Girl and Boy Scout Troops here at Wesley by joining the Scouts after the 11 AM Worship Service on February 10th* for a:
Taco Bar Luncheon!**

We need feeders and eaters, so come on out! Contact Jess Sichel with questions at (443) 850-4274.

* February 10th will also be a day to drop off donation items for the Scout auction (see advertisement on page 7).

Happy Birthday!



February

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Heather Sater | |
| 3 Megan Myatt | |
| 4 Dan Graf | 14 Tyler Rill |
| Kristen Reilly | Cherie Hughes |
| Mason Waltrup | Jason Martin |
| 5 Alayna Mahosky | Heather Schaefer |
| 6 Amanda Hughes | 15 Olivia Pratt |
| 7 Jennifer Ejc | 16 Sterling Davis, III |
| 8 McKayla Fore | 18 Gladys Smith |
| 9 Haydn Schaefer | 22 Bryce Davey |
| 11 Daniel Baumiller, Jr. | 23 Jeffrey Graf |
| | 28 Lana Montgomery |

February Anniversaries:

- 1 Dennis & Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill
- 11 Ben and Carolyn Whetsell
- 12 Patrick & Kristen Reilly
- 16 Darwin & Patricia Sater
- 29 John & Stephanie Halley



Updated Contact Info:

Matthew and Jessica Sichel
 Home Phone: (443) 507-0686
 Matt's Cell Phone: (443) 278-3440
 Jess's Cell Phone: (443) 850-4274



Congratulations, and Welcome to the World!

Colton Daniel Horner, son of Lauren and Aaron Horner, was born on January 17th at 12:51am.



We Extend Our Condolences...



We offer our sympathy to the Palmer family on the passing of Davona's father, Laverne E. Gross, on Saturday, January 12, 2019. We also extend our condolences to the family and friends of Rose Wilhelm Doster, who passed away on Thursday, January 24, 2019. May Gold hold you close to His side and bless you as you mourn the loss of your loved ones and celebrate their lives.

Please Remember Wesley UMC's Inclement Weather Policy:

If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll Co. at 6 AM, Sunday School and the 8:45 AM service will be cancelled. The 11 AM service will depend on the severity of the weather. In the event of inclement weather, a message will be left on the church answering service by 7 AM regarding services, but please use your discretion as to the weather in your area. We don't want anyone getting injured!

Updating Your Contact Information

Please call Sandy Cole, Membership Secretary at 410-876-5295 or send an e-mail to baldor1@comcast.net if your name, address, phone number or e-mail address has changed. Feel free to contact her with any other changes you require. Additionally, if you spot an error in the Directory, please let her know so she can correct it.



Members to Keep in Your Prayers (Cards Welcome!)

**Anna Faye Jenkins, Geraldine Garrett,
 Louise Wilhelm, & Etta Ruth Heird**
 Golden Crest Asst. Living
 4110 St. Paul Rd., Hampstead, MD 21074
 Phone for Louise Wilhelm: (410) 596-9203

Peggy Dovell
 2322 Susanann Drive
 Hampstead, MD 21074
 Phone for Peggy: (410) 374-0199



Have a New Neighbor? We can help welcome them home! Contact Reenie Harris at (410) 848-1121.



Dear Wesley friends,

It was such a pleasure to receive a card signed by so many members of Wesley UMC. The children's drawings were very special too. It's good to know there are people who care for those they don't see often.

Your church family is so warm and welcoming. I love to visit.

Warm thoughts, J P Lewis (Rev. Amy's mother)

.....

Dear Wesley UMC (Church) Family—

I thank you all so very, very much for your generous Christmas gift. Denny and I desperately needed a new grill, and I used part of the money to buy Denny a beautiful new Weber grill for his birthday—a mutually beneficial gift which we promptly used to make a delicious steak dinner. Thank You! I pray Gods blessings upon you all and wish you a happy, healthy 2019.

Love, Rev. Amy

.....

Dear Wesley family,

THANK YOU for all of the love and support you have shown to our family during the past couple of months. After our son-in-law's very unexpected death in December, you have wrapped your arms around us, held us in prayer, sent us cards, given us hugs. Many of you have supported our daughter Brittany and grandsons Jake and Logan Stout with gifts of food, money, and prayers. We are so blessed! This is what it means to live as the body of Christ. THANK YOU for reflecting the love of the Lord to our family when we have so needed it. We are beyond grateful.

With much appreciation, Stephanie, John, Zeke and Nate Halley

.....

"GRACIAS"

To everyone at Wesley UMC,

Thank you so much for the generous gifts given to all of us on the worship team at Christmas! We are all thankful to share our gifts and talents at Wesley. Thank you for your thoughtful gifts—your prayers, notes, and money. We are thankful to get to worship God with you each week!

With deepest thanks, The Worship Team: Stephanie Halley, Jason Martin, Paul & Lisa Kemp, Lana Montgomery, & Reese Harden

.....

"THANK YOU!"

Wesley Church ,

Thank you so much for the money! I really enjoy playing guitar for the church!

Reese Harden

"Is he a Christian" Continued...

There might even have been some true love there. But there was no real foundation. Without the Lord, there isn't much to depend upon. Trust me.

This February, I am grateful for a relationship unlike any I have had previously. Denny and I hold Jesus Christ as central to our relationship. We read the bible together daily, and do our devotions. We pray numerous times every day. Many of you have been prayed for by us...together. (No... we do NOT betray confidences!) We assess our spiritual condition together, extol each other's virtues and urge each other toward greater faithfulness. I have learned so much about being a Christian from my husband, and I thank God every day for having brought me a best friend and soulmate who loves the Lord. Have we had disagreements? Certainly. Have we gone to bed angry? Maybe. Have we held onto grudges and failed to forgive one another? Never. Jesus Christ is our foundation, and we are learning how to be in relationship by His example. Every day. And it works.

So, keep Jesus Christ at the center of your heart and home. Let me pray for you if He isn't there. These matters have eternal significance. Happy Valentine's Day, my friends.

Love, Rev. Amy

Wesley Book Club: February through March 2019



*Good Reads &
Conversation*

The Wesley Book Club is open to everyone both inside and outside of our church — come out and bring a friend! **The group will have its next meetings at MJ's Café & Baking Co., 2965 Manchester Rd, Manchester, MD 21102.**

The February book is *Sisters First* by Jenna Bush Hager. The meeting will be on February 28th at 12:30 PM.

The March selection is *Educated* by Tara Westover. The meeting will be on March 2th at 12:30 PM.

Questions about the Book Club? Give Reenie a call at (410) 848-1121.

Pancake Breakfasts: Comin' Right Up!

The United Methodist Men have selected to contribute to the Westminster Rescue Mission. To help fund this contribution, they are offering Pancake Breakfasts, asking only for free will donations. The next breakfast is:



February 24, 2019

Serving will be from 8:15 to 10:45 AM
in the Fellowship Hall

Please come for comradery, enjoy pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee, and help provide support for the Westminster Rescue Mission. Thanks!

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation: Westminster Rescue Mission

Looking for a way to get into ministry in our area? Try the Westminster Rescue Mission!

Monday, February 18, 2019, from 11-12 at the Mission, there will be a Volunteer Orientation. Following the orientation, there will be lunch and a tour.



The work of the Mission can only be accomplished through the help of many, many volunteers. They use volunteers to help with the massive food pantry/distribution program, with the thrift store donations and recycling program and so many individuals and groups work with the men in the addiction recovery program providing weekend meals, serving during our evening chapels, helping in job searches, resume writing, GED testing, and many other ways. They are so blessed when their VOLUNTEERS have a passion for serving at the Mission! 2018 was a HUGE year for WRM with a num-

"Bless This Church"

Original Words by Lucy Harrell to the tune of "Bless This House"



"Bless this Church, O Lord, we pray
Teaching all mankind Thy Way.
Bless these stalwart walls and strong,
Echoing with joyous song.
Bless the organ and the choir
May they strengthen and inspire.
Bless the folks who worship here,
May they always feel Thee near.

Bless these windows, clear and bright,
Symbols of Thy Heavenly light.
Bless this door, now open wide,
Welcoming the world inside.
Bless the pulpit and the pew,
May we follow Christ anew.
Bless us all, that we may prove
Ever worthy of Thy love.
Bless us all, that we may prove
Ever worthy of Thy love."

Did Ya Know? A Finance Tidbit



If you are required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA or other qualified retirement plan because you are 70.5 years old or older, you can have your RMD paid directly to Wesley UMC. Instead of getting a charitable deduction, the distribution is tax-free, which in turn might reduce the amount of your taxable Social Security income. If this strategy appeals to you, please reach out to your retirement plan trustee or custodian - he or she will need time to process the paperwork and make the distribution to Wesley UMC.

If you elect to make a donation to Wesley from your retirement distribution, please contact Laura Waltrup to assist with providing any necessary information to your financial advisor and for instructions as to where you would like your distribution to be applied: a lump sum in lieu of weekly tithing or a designated donation for a special purpose such as Wesley Improvement Projects (WIP), Endowment, etc. Thank you!



Youth Winter Retreat! Friday, March 8 – Sunday, March 10

6th–12th graders are heading to
Camp Eder for a weekend of fun,
fellowship & faith!

For more information, contact
Stephanie Halley.

YOUTH GROUP @ WESLEY FEBRUARY 2019

Mark your calendar!!

For more info, contact Stephanie Halley
(stephanie@wesleychurch-hampstead.org or 443.803.7372)



Feb 3 **Movie Night 5.30-8 pm**, location TBA

Feb 17 **Movie Night 5.30-8 pm**, location TBA

Feb 24 **Destination Unknown, 4-6pm**
Show up and Serve!!

Sr High Girls Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Fridays, 6—8pm @ the Halley's

Sr High Guys' Movie Night: Every 4th Friday—Brought to You by Jason x 2

...and on Sunday morning:

Youth meet in THE CAVE, 9.45-10.45am, *and* Worship services

- 8.45am – Contemporary Worship
- 11am - Traditional Worship

Troop 380's 33rd Annual Scout Auction!

What: An Auction and Give-Aways for Items Including Business Gift Cards, Wine Tastings, Weekend Getaways, Tools, Sports Memorabilia, and More!

When: Saturday, March 2, 2019, from 9 AM to 5 PM

**** Drop off donated items at Wesley on February 10th!! ****

Where: Snyder's Auction House (Right Off of Main St. in Downtown Hampstead)

Why: To Support the Activities of Our Own Troop 380! Come Out and Have Some Fun!



Here is some information from the Troop:

On Saturday March 2, 2019, Troop 380 will host its Annual Scout Auction at Snyder's Auction House in Hampstead. This auction is our **only** fundraiser, and we need your support to make this year's event our most successful ever. Thirty-three years ago, Troop 380 held its first benefit auction and every year since then, the generosity of local businesses like yours has enabled the boys of Troop 380 to continue to live the Scout Oath:

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.



With your continued support, this auction encourages the boys to remain "physically strong" by helping to finance activities such as biking, backpacking, canoeing, and hiking. Our boys stay "mentally awake" by earning over 100 merit badges at Summer Camp, a weeklong trip made possible through auction funds. Our scouts fulfill their duty to help others by donating countless hours aiding North East Social Action Program (NESAP) and serving at fundraising functions for Wesley United Methodist Church. This year we have continued our relationship with Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland. Simply put, we could not participate in these endeavors without your support!

Since 1986, forty-three scouts from Troop 380 have attained scouting's highest rank: Eagle. Many of these scouts are now working in the community as teachers, business-owners, managers, and other professionals. This past year, our young men continued to fulfill the oath of service to community by working on a new Eagle Project, the building of a new outdoor shelter for Greenmount United Methodist Church. Upcoming projects will benefit Manchester Valley High School and Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks.



Please consider investing in the future of the troop and its scouts with a donation of **used tools, gift certificates, sports tickets, merchandise, and household items**. This is a well-attended live auction reaching over 300 persons during the day. When your item is up for bid, [if applicable] the professional auctioneer will announce the name and location of your business. Additionally, your business will be included in the auction catalogue provided to all of our guests and recognized on our website, Facebook page, and through email. This is a great way for you to advertise your business and to let the community know that you care.

We value your time and your support, and hope that you will contribute to the success of this year's auction. For more information, or to donate items or services, please visit our website at bsatroop380.webs.com or email me at troop380auction@gmail.com. If it is convenient, please mail donations to the address located at the top of this letter. If not, a member of our troop will contact you regarding a donation and to make the necessary arrangements for pick-up.

Sincerely, Traci Siegler
Auction Chairperson, BSA Troop 380

February Lectionary... GET INTO THE WORD!

February 3: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 10: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

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

February 24: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38



**PIES, COBBLERS AND TARTS! OH MY!
WESLEY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Coming in April...

WE ARE LOOKING FOR BAKERS TO DONATE

AND OF COURSE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR BUYERS TO BUY



What is your favorite?
Let us know and we will try to bake it up for you!
Contact Kim Peake at (410)374-9390.

Planned Giving

“It is not enough to look back. We need to look forward. There is much that needs to be done (children taught, the sick visited, those who mourn to be comforted, and those in trouble to be helped). Wesley is to stand as a beacon to the love and power of God; its members are to be rays spreading out to give light in a dark world”

– Excerpted from Material Prepared for Wesley’s Bicentennial (1987)

Wesley has a rich history, a wonderful present, and a future full of promise. How can we, living in the present, help plant the seeds for our church’s future? Consider remembering our Wesley UMC in your Last Will and Testament. Planned giving is one way to provide a legacy to your commitment to Christ, helping Wesley to continue to stand as that “beacon to the love and power of God.” Talk to your family. Talk to your advisors. Learn more. One source of information on planned giving is the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation, Inc. You can find them on the web at maumlegacy.org. At Wesley, feel free to contact Lee Ann Crochunis or Laura Waltrup, Finance Committee.



Library Notes

It's finally beginning to seem like winter, after the ups and downs of temperature and soaking rains of the past couple of months. Is it time to make some cookies while the wind is howling outside? How about curling up with a good book while drinking a cup of hot tea? No matter what you do when the weather turns cold and snowy, remember that our Heavenly Father wants us to have some relaxing time for ourselves so that we can be renewed and refreshed to do His will according to his purpose!



Information in parentheses indicates where library items are shelved.

Forever, Erma: Best-Loved Writing from America's Favorite Humorist by Erma Bombeck (920). Bombeck left a legacy of more than 4,500 columns and twelve books. This treasury contains more than 190 of her most requested columns. Here she reveals herself and allows us to laugh and sometimes cry with her from the 1960's to the 1990's.

Nearby by Harold E. Kohn (240). This little book of 21 devotional articles begins with the Light given at Christmas and continues with aspects of spiritual living.

Treasures to Behold from the Salesian Collection by Jennifer Grimaldi (800). This is a collection of inspirational poetry on a variety of topics. It is well illustrated.

An Ark on the Flood by Anne Knowles (Fiction). Rachel Bellany Adams is a young veterinarian in a farming town in the Cotswolds in England. What she may lack in physical stature, she makes up for in sheer determination and commitment. Life with animals and their humans never runs smoothly. There are daily encounters with surly beasts and idiosyncratic owners. Besides the farmers, there are the townspeople to contend with. Then she must grapple with her own private conflicts: a growing professional ambition and a desire to start a family.

Old Turtle by Douglas Wood (Children's Fiction). This fable promotes a deeper understanding of the earth and our relationship with all the beings who inhabit it.

The Truth for Youth by Tim Todd (Teens). This book contains the New Testament along with comic stories packed with the truth about many issues that young people are confronted with and sins that are destroying their lives. Included is a list of student's legal rights for religious freedom on public school campuses.

ATTENTION PLEASE!! The Harrell Library is bulging at the seams. We would love it if anyone has an empty bookshelf just 'hangin' around your house that you would be willing to donate! We're looking for a bookshelf approximately 33 inches tall and about 4 and a half feet long. THANKS SO MUCH!!

Our library is for you to use and enjoy. Remember to sign your name and date to the card found in the back of the book. File the card in the yellow box under the letter that begins your last name. When you return a book, find the card, put the return date on the card, and put the card in the pocket of the book. You can stack books on the shelf beside the yellow box or on the desk; the librarians will re-shelve them. Please return borrowed items within 6 months.

Donated items may be left stacked on the library desk. **Please** leave a paper with your name and the names of the donated items so that we can give you proper credit. Remember that we only take items suitable for a church library. The librarians reserve the right to determine suitability.

Please leave the stepladder used for reaching books on higher shelves in the corner visible near the closet doors.

Bonnie Catron and Nan Lishman, Librarians



A VANCO Reminder: Winter Weather

As with our own lives, expenses for the church “march on” even when services are cancelled due to weather. To help alleviate the pressure, please consider donating online through VANCO when you can’t make it to church. Just visit <http://www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org/online-giving.html>.

UMM Minutes • January 14, 2019



After grace by Stanley, we had a meal prepared by Denny-Entrée, Mike-Salad, and Dieter provided dessert and beverage.

Devotion: Stanley provided a message on George Muller's life experiences in the 19th century creating orphanage while receiving all resources from prayer only.

Treasure Report: With Jon's absence, Denny reported that we now have \$1138. Our next PCB is postponed due to weather to January 20th.

New Business: Gordon made motion for UMM to purchase a window which would require \$600. Chet seconded the motion. We discussed making sure we have \$1000 for Westminster Mission. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting February 11th:

Entrée: Jim Salad: John Desert: Gordon Devotions: Mike

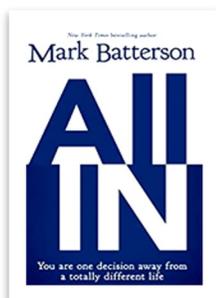
Program for February not yet established. Randy will check. Chet will investigate the NSA Kg program. Gordon will check Christian Athletes in Action.

HEY GUYS! You're Invited!

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Invites You to a:

Men's Retreat
February 9, 2019
8:30 am — 2 pm

A Hot Lunch will be served by the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Women. More information can be found at www.pleasantgroveumcmd.org



“The Gospel costs nothing. You can’t earn it or buy it. It can only be received as a free gift which is compliments of God’s grace. It doesn’t cost anything, but it demands everything. It demands that we go “all in,” putting all that we have into God’s hands. And that’s where we get stuck—in spiritual no man's land. We’re afraid that if we go all in that we might miss out on what this life has to offer. It’s not true. The only thing you’ll miss out on is everything God has to offer. And the good news is this: if you don’t hold out on God, God won’t hold out on you.”

UMW Notes

Warm Greetings from Wesley United Methodist Women

The UMW met on 1/16/19. It was an informal meeting in order to meet and approve our November and December 2018 meeting minutes and Treasurer's reports and a chance for the women to rehearse the 150 Legacy Program skit that will be presented at the UMW worship service on Sunday, January 20' 2019 UMW worship services.



Our next meeting will be held on February 20th at 6:30pm in the church parsonage. Our program that evening will be Women investing in Shalom.

Our objective is to study scripture and UMW history to discover how God has gently nudged ordinary women to respond and evolve in Christ 's ministry of Shalom, through mission at home and abroad to invest ourselves in Jesus mission through giving and action.

Wesley UMW invite all women of the church to come join our women's group and have the opportunity to be involved in missions by helping women and children in our communities, our nation and around the world.

Shalom, Wesley UMW

Outreach Notes • January 9, 2019

Members present: Jan Kurtz, Vicky Wilmer, Janet Martin, Dian Rowe, Kim Peake, Linda Yost

Treasurer's Report – We are doing well with the fundraisers from Nov through Dec. (Wine Festival, Greenmount Station, Cookie Walk, Hiking for Jesus and Soup Sale.) Thank you everyone for your support.

VIM – Jan Tarboro North Carolina March 31st – April 6th

Christmas Families – Thank you to everyone for your generosity. We were able to fill all of the tags for our families and they were very appreciative.

Faith Feast will be January 25th. The signup sheet will be coming around.

NESAP

- Taste of Spring March 21st 5-8 at Crossroads Church
 - Cost \$25 couple, \$15 for singles; Silent auction at 7:00; Local restaurants providing food
- NESAP Challenge April and May
- Have a heart for NESAP in February – donation jars at local businesses

Christmas Caroling – was able to visit six places.

Pies/Tart/Cobblers – April 14th

Baked Potato Luncheon – January 27

Easter Baskets – We will supply the baskets and people will fill them for Shepard Staff.

College Students:

- Purpose is to keep the kids connected the Christian community.
- We will provide boxes and have people in the church put items in the boxes. Volunteers to mail them.
- Start collection January 20th through February 3rd.

Next Meeting: February 13th

Administrative Council Planning Retreat Minutes • January 12, 2019

Attendees: Pam Phillips (Chairperson), Linda Yost Lisa Kemp, Sandy Cole, Brenda Kennedy, Reenie Harris, Jason Montgomery, Matt Sichel, Jess Sichel, Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Denny Rill, Vicky Wilmer, Laura Waltrup, Kim Peake, Linda Hollman, Brenda Hess, John Sies, Stephanie Halley, and Janet Martin.

Pam opened the meeting at 9 am. She made the announcement that there will be a potluck at her house on February 2, 2019 at 6 pm. Pam offered prayer and read our Mission and Vision, which currently are:

Vision: To show the people the hope in Jesus.

Mission: To make disciples by growing and learning, worshipping and praying, and serving and connecting.

Devotions were shared by Linda Yost. She read about "A Bit of Clay." We are just a bit of clay on our own, but we are able to be used by God.

A Review of Our Situation:

- What are the "vital signs" of Wesley UMC today?
- How do we move forward?
- Are we goal-oriented, producing fruit?

Our goals should be for reflection and conversation for strengthening our ministry.

Pam divided those gathered into four groups. She had two questions to be considered:

- Where is God working in the midst of Wesley Church?
- Where might God be calling this church in the future?

Group 1: Matthew 22:34(36)-40 – "Which is the greatest commandment of the law?..." (read and discuss where Wesley fits in)

Rough takeaways from the conversation:

- We can be too wrapped up in the logistics of church rather than worship (Martha/Mary balance)
- Not putting God first as prominent
- Priorities are out of order – people first instead of God
- What about reclaiming members (and children/grandchildren)? We don't have to be at church to love God and our neighbor.
- We are vessels of God's work; God does the work through us; we don't.

Group 2: Luke 10:25-37 – "Good Samaritan"

Rough takeaways from the conversation:

- We pass by each other and others; do we "make ourselves busy" to justify not being a neighbor?
- How do we justify what we do and don't do?
- The Samaritan has a wholistic type of ministry (money, time, effort, hands-on). How do we do this?
- What can we do to reconnect people?
- Sometimes, we need to set aside the program to be in relationship.
- We are called to be "moved by pity [compassion]" in connection with God
- Is there compassion outside of God?
- God loves us [perfectly]; we love Him back [terribly]. We need to learn how God loves, then love others better.

Group 3: Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

Rough takeaways from the conversation:

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Previous Page)

- We go out, but do we get the teaching component?
- It is important to understand our spiritual gifts
- The business of the church has distracted us from the calling of God (Martha / Mary balance)
- We don't know how we impact others
- We are flawed individuals; however, we need to be comfortable with ourselves and rooted in the LORD with an active relationship with God.
- There is a perception that we are "the holders of the knowledge," and some make the assumption that we know something that others don't know.
- Remake ourselves to say/act/be that we don't have all the answers or a monopoly on the truth
- We should recognize our utter depravity and recognize God's grace for us.
- Empty ourselves to be filled by God
- How to reach out to others to engage? [How do we communicate grace?]
- Where are the "lost sheep" of our congregation?

Group 4: Galatians 3:(25)26-29 – "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ..."

Rough takeaways from the conversation:

- The [Old Testament] law becomes a wall that can separate us from God and others who need help
- Christ calls us together as a whole (vs. being separate)
- We minister well to each other and to others, but what about immersion ministry?
- Women between the ages of 45 and 64 are the largest growing group for opioid users
- Welcome the Stranger: families of drug addicts are welcome here, but they feel very isolated
- It could be possible to form a foundation/corridor of churches (from multiple denominations) up Rte. 30 from Hampstead through Manchester to help combat the opioid pipeline

Review of 2018 January and March retreat minutes/goals

Discussion of our Vision and Mission in break out groups, then reconvened to discuss.

- What does it mean to show the hope in Jesus / how do we "show hope in Jesus"?
 - Caring, sharing, compassion, attitude
 - Optimism
 - Talk the talk / walk the walk
 - Meeting the real needs of people
 - Offering grace
 - Living joyfully
 - Testifying: sharing how God impacts our lives
- What is a disciple of Christ Jesus?
 - Student
 - Dedicated follower of Jesus
 - Accepts & spreads the Gospel
 - Learning/teaching – working together to learn
 - "Going towards something – Christ
 - Prayer Warrior
 - Discipleship is allowing God to pour into you; worship is glory to God
- Have we made disciples at Wesley Church this year?
 - The church is a garden to be tended
 - We don't always know the "rest of the story"
 - We might not see the seeds grow that we have sown

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Previous Page)

- God commands us; we are helpers
- Who are the people?
 - Those in the new housing developments
 - Scouts
 - Stay at home "Moms"
 - Christmas and Easter attendees
- What are the needs of the community? To answer this, we need to welcome new ideas and groups at Wesley, and we need to enhance our current programs (each committee should evaluate.)
- We have a treasure in clay jars [2 Corinthians 4:6-10: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."]
- It was noted that our Vision is actually a Mission; a Vision should be what we can see in our mind's eye. Changes to the Vision were discussed. **By the end of the retreat, this was the new Vision: to be "a community filled with the hope and love of Jesus."**

What did we do well in 2018? Small groups, picnic, Sr. High Girls' Bible Study, hospitality luncheons, hands-on missions, prayer warriors, town hall meetings, UMM, UMW, GriefShare, visitation, suppers, increased attendance at the contemporary worship service

What can we do differently in the next six months?

1. Communication

- There are issues with communication between committees. To help with this, committees should report the highlights to Ad. Council. It has been helpful to see the different group minutes printed in The Journal.
- Some committees don't know their responsibilities. **If you don't know who is responsible for something, let Pam know and she will find a committee for that responsibility.
- "Classifieds" sections of the bulletin and Journals might be a good idea
- We can restart the "Wesley Wall of Who's Who." The heads of committees and other ministries and staff will have a photo of themselves on the wall in the hallway along with a job description and contact information so that they can be more easily identified and accessed.

2. Development of committees: Description, [etc.]

3. Ministry development:

Participate in conferences, hone skills, encourage/get new ideas

Adding to the Contemporary worship team member group

Work on understanding how people hear the Gospel

Always "train your replacement" – meaning, more than one person should know what is going on with the coffee maker, within a committee, etc.

Develop an online ministry (sermons)

4. Expand our ability to reach others online and reach youth: Website, podcast; perhaps identify a social media coordinator

5. VBS: Communicate with the participants throughout the year

6. Invite Girl and Boy Scouts to our events

7. Walk the new development(s)

8. Understand the needs of our community: invest in finding out what the demographic needs to better serve them – i.e., practical help, broken marriage or prison support group

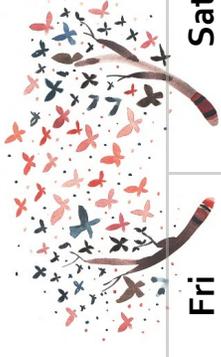
There were a few announcements/mini-discussions regarding the upcoming video and Question & Answer session for "The Way Forward," the pancake breakfast, upcoming Scout Sunday and luncheon in February.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Sichel, Recording Secretary



FEBRUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Regular Worship Schedule: 8:45 AM Contemporary Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>10:45 AM Fellowship Time 11 AM Traditional Worship Nursery Care During All Services</p>			<p>Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM</p>	<p>2 Worship Meeting 9 to 11:30 AM Funeral for Rose Doster 1:30 PM</p>
3 Youth: Movie Night 5:30 to 8 PM	4	5 Window Installation Girl Scout Court of Awards 5 PM to 9 PM (Rescheduled from January due to Weather)	6 Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	7 Choir Practice 7 PM	8 Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM Sr. High Girls' Bible Study 6-8 PM	9
10 Scouting Sunday! Luncheon Following 11 AM Worship Service — All Are Welcome! Fellowship Hall Reserved	11 UMM at 6:30 PM	12 Girl Scouts 6:30 to 8 PM	13 Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM Outreach 6 PM SPRC 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	14 Choir Practice 7 PM	15 Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM March Journal Submissions Due!	16
17 Youth: Movie Night 5:30 to 8 PM	18	19 GriefShare in the Church Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM	20 Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM UMW 6:30 PM Finance 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	21 Choir Practice 7 PM	22 Faith Feast 12-1 PM Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM Sr. High Girls' Bible Study 6-8 PM Sr. High Guys' Movie Night	23 Special Session of General Conference of the UMC on Human Sexuality February 23-26th, St. Louis, MO
24 UMM Pancake Breakfast 8:15 to 10:45 AM Youth: Destination Unknown, 4 to 6 PM	25 Special Session of General Conference of the UMC on Human Sexuality	26 Girl Scouts 6:30 to 8 PM GriefShare in the Church Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM	27 Office Drop-In Hours 1:30 to 3:30 PM Administrative Council 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	28 Book Club at MJ's Café & Baking Co. in Manchester, MD 12:30 PM Choir Practice 7 PM		

SCHEDULE OF



WORSHIP

Regular Worship Schedule

8:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:45 AM Sunday School / Breakfast Club
10:45 AM Fellowship Time
11 AM Traditional Worship Service
Nursery Care/Cradle Roll Available during the worship service!

We're on the Web! Visit us at:
www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org

Phone: (410) 374-4027
Email: wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org

Office Drop-In Hours: See Calendars Inside!

We seek to show people the hope in Jesus.

February Worship Participants...

	<u>Ushers/Greeters</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Junior Church</u>
Feb. 3 8:45 AM 11 AM	Laura Waltrup and <i>Need</i> Sandy Cole, Roger Daugherty, and <i>Need</i>	Michael Sichel	<i>Need</i>	Linda Yost
Feb. 10 8:45 AM 11 AM	<i>Need</i> Scouts (Scouting Sunday)	Linda Hollman	Katherine Crochunis	Jan Kurtz
Feb. 17 8:45 AM 11 AM	<i>Need</i> <i>Need</i>	Jess Sichel	<i>Need</i>	Brenda Benson
Feb. 24 8:45 AM 11 AM	Janet & John Martin Kim Peake, Brenda Hess, and <i>Need</i>	Laura Waltrup	Lyla Montgomery	<i>Need</i>

Wesley United Methodist Church

3239 Carrollton Rd.
 Hampstead, MD 21074
 The Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Pastor

Address Service Requested



The Wesley Journal: *february* Issue