

Winter 2019

Sharing the Story

Wesley Freedom: Generosity in Action Magazine



Photo by Brenda Bowman

In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed.

The Lord God Almighty—Jesus Christ.

Christina Rossetti



A Piece from the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Bill Brown

As I look back over 2018, I must borrow the words from the song “Seasons of Love” from the musical Rent.



Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments, so dear. Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes how do you measure, measure a year?

*In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee,
in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife.*

*In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
how do you measure a year in the life?*

How about love?

So how do I measure a year; how do I measure 525,600 minutes? I measure it by the number of lives we have touched with the story of God’s grace. I measure it by the lives that have been touched through worship, the lives that have been touched through our children and youth ministries, and the lives that have been touched by our mission ministries. Every person we have come into contact with, interacted with, served, or taught is how I measure our year.

All of these lives that have been touched by the story of God’s grace are because of your generosity. Through the giving of your time in service to our community through this church and the giving of your financial resources, you make ministry here possible. I measure this year by my gratefulness for all that you do.

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Bill (aka The Running Rev)

WESLEY FREEDOM UMC 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

78 NEW MEMBERS



42 BAPTISMS

585 AVERAGE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



1131 TOTAL
INVOLVEMENT IN
SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND SMALL
GROUPS

60,000 TOTAL
NUMBER
OF PEOPLE SERVED
THROUGH HANDS ON
MINISTRIES (FOOD
PANTRY, FEED MY
SHEEP, HSP)



1780 NUMBER OF
CHILDREN AND
YOUTH INVOLVED
(YOUTH MINISTRY,
VBS, EARLY YEARS
LEARNING CENTER)

1
LORD AND SAVIOR



THEY IN GENEROUS

By Daniel Barnett, Director of Youth Ministry

If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together. - African Proverb

Nothing has been more true than this in the past few years that I have been at Wesley Freedom. We have gone far together and I just want to say thank you. You cannot be a leader if you do not have anyone to lead. And as a leader, I have been given an overwhelming amount of resources in the form of Talent (people), Time, and Treasure (money). While you have graciously given each of these to the youth ministry over the years, I would like to specifically look at the past three months. Here are the many ways in which I have been blown away by this church's generosity.

Talent (People)

These past few months have seen many people helping and involved with different youth ministry programs and events. Here is a snapshot of how people were generous with their time:

Confirmation Leaders. These servant leaders help tend the Confirmation students as they learn more about their own faith walk and the tenants of the Christian Faith and United Methodist theology. What makes this group of leaders so amazing is every week they meet with our students, go on retreats, and build positive relationships with the Confirmands. Since coming to Wesley Freedom, the Confirmation ministry has had different leaders each year, but this year that changed. We had seven wonderful teacher leaders return from last year to serve with three new teacher leaders. God is good.

Middle and High School Ministry Leaders. These individuals serve our youth on a weekly basis by being small group leaders who meet with students to hear about the highs and lows of their week, what's going on at school or in sports, or by just by being present. Sometimes consistent presence is what a student needs to feel secure. These leaders build trust with students and are there for them in difficult times. These leaders are totally there for students and for that I am grateful.

Event Leaders. These are all the people who gave up a night to help with one of six big events youth ministry held this fall. From the Corn Maze to the Spaghetti Dinner to the Drive-Thru Nativity, wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of many different people.

It takes a lot of people with all different types of skill sets to have a thriving youth ministry and I am so grateful for everyone who is serving with their talents.

2018 Year in Review

The youth ministry staff team grew with the hiring of
Brittney King,
as the youth ministry Administrative Assistant.

High School Youth Group had 78 unique
visitors.

Middle School Youth Group had 124 unique visitors.

Youth Ministry had 35 events.

The youth ministry had over 87 adults volunteers help
in different events.

God is Good!

Time

Time is one resource that everyone, including myself, wishes they had more of in their lives. Time goes by so quickly and there never seems to be enough of it. I am thankful for all the leaders and staff (both paid and unpaid) who have given their time. I am also thankful to the spouses and families of leaders and staff who have supported their family member's participation and contribution to the awesome work being done in youth ministry. As the leader, I realize that everyone's time is valuable and the youth ministry staff really works hard to ensure that our unpaid leaders' time is not wasted. By my rough calculations, this past year people served in our youth ministry over 9,200 hours, that's at least 552,000 minutes!!! I am so grateful to those who have given their time to help students grow in their relationship with God and others.

Treasure (Money)

As the old saying goes, "Money makes the world go round." I am so thankful for gifts to the general church offering, for the gifts that our congregation makes to youth ministry outside of the general offering, and for donations made at events like the Spaghetti Dinner and Drive-Thru Nativity. The church has blessed youth ministry with a 13% budget increase this year. This increase will help to better train our leaders, it will help us assist families with scholarships, it will help to pave the way for a new era in youth missions, and it will allow us to increase service projects in our community. This coming summer, Wesley Freedom will be sending out three different mission teams! A church our size can and will be doing more to answer the call of the Great Commission to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

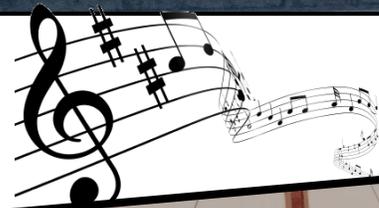
Through the Spaghetti Dinner, Drive-Thru Nativity, and other contributions, the youth ministry was blessed to receive over \$10,000. God is so, so good. I am thankful to all those who financially blessed the youth ministry this year.

It was an amazing year and I look forward to seeing what God is going to do in the future of our youth ministry, and in the lives of our students and adults.



When I decided to volunteer to sing for the Christmas Cantata, I had no idea the impact it would have on my life, more specifically, my faith. Music has always been a vehicle to calm, center, and inspire me. Participating in the Cantata not only inspired me, it filled me with faith. I left every practice with a sense of peace. I was where God wanted me to be, doing his work, spreading his message. I was so moved by the experience, I had to hold back tears during our performance. The experience had a profound impact on how I see my involvement in the church and what I am meant to do. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to sing with such talented people and under the direction of such a competent leader (both musically and spiritually). Now that my children have grown, I feel that I have experienced the next steps in my spiritual journey. My way has been lit by the powerful sound of God's music!

- Tracey Naylor



"It brings my family joy to see our children up on the stage reenacting the birth of Christ for the Christmas Eve service. I also love seeing that the readers are young adults and they are leading the service. It enriches my season of Advent in so many ways because I am feeling more connected to my church and community.

-Kelly Borske

Christmas at Wesley Freedom



This was my son Peyton's first time helping at the family Christmas Eve Service and my first time being

able to attend. We have an older son with severe autism which prevents us from doing some things. In the week leading up to the service, Peyton was nervous about having a role, and even more uncomfortable shouting "Our Savior is here!" We spoke several times about how everyone in the room is there to hear that and that it wouldn't be awkward in the moment. He definitely was not looking forward to it, but when the service started and he put on his costume, he "got it." He said he wasn't worried or afraid to shout because he knew what it meant for the people to hear. Coming from a 14-year-old boy, I think this is an amazing thing!! He was so happy he did it, and even happy he got to shout! I personally enjoyed the service more than any other Christmas Eve service I have ever attended! The simple story with the traditional songs was absolutely perfect. -Dawne Dill



I volunteered this year to be a speaker for the Christmas Eve service because I knew that spending time at the church would get me in the spirit for the holiday. As we practiced for the service, it was especially heartwarming for me to get to work with the children. Seeing how they take pride in getting a part in telling the Christmas story is very sweet, and I love seeing it come to life through them when they put on the costumes. I was very joyful to be not only attending, but participating in helping them tell the story. I came one night a week to go to practices, which this year did not overlap with sports for me. During these practices, I got to spend time with my younger sister Lucy, which made celebrating Christmas with her this year even more special.

-Lauren Welch



MISSIONS

CANNED FOOD SUNDAY / THANKSGIVING MEAL BOXES



Once again, our Annual Canned Food Sunday and Thanksgiving Meal Box Packing was a huge success. With the help of our congregation, Savage Dance Company, and the U14

A special that you to our Kids Creating Kindness ministry for taking the lead on this event in acquiring the food and participants to get the boxes packed in record time.



Cyclone Baseball Team we were able to pack over 100 Thanksgiving Meal Boxes to be distributed to our community. All food that was left over went to our South Carroll Food Pantry.

Church members packed over 100 boxes for the community

2018 Bazaar

I love the people, the process, and the end product. -Jenny Pickwell

I am always struck by the sense of comradery and fellowship between those involved with the Bazaar. Our luncheon team has so much fun in the kitchen and I truly believe that comes through to our guests on Bazaar day. I feel blessed to be a part of this event that has become a much-anticipated annual community tradition. -Cindy Shruell



I love to craft and this group gives me a circle of like-minded people. There is the setting and meeting a deadline that all of us are aiming for and the interaction between us is amazing. My self-confidence grew and the growing friendships are priceless. On to November 2019! -Peggy Biggs



WESLEY FREEDOM'S BIG DREAM

Sharon Feldman, Director of Community Life

Wesley Freedom UMC has a BIG dream: to create a place in South Carroll where families, no matter their make-up or income, can find resources and support when faced with a crisis.

Imagine discovering addiction, suicide, or mental health concerns have found their way to your door step. Would you know where to start? Could you navigate your way through phone calls, confusing systems, or trying to Google your way to a solution? Wesley Freedom's Family Resource Center is a safe space, where families don't walk through crisis alone – where families connect with people and resources that will help bring healing.

Christmas Eve Offerings 2018

Each year, we are committed to giving half our Christmas Eve offering away to vital ministries. This year we will be supporting the Family Resource Center, a network of support for families in crisis. Because of your generosity, \$25,000 has been given to the Family Resource Center to help families in our area.

The Family Resource Center in Action

In 2018, the Family Resource Center focused on addressing the addiction crisis facing our community. We have formed excellent working relationships with many experts in this field including Sue Krebs (Maryland State Delegate), Brian DeLeonardo (State's Attorney), representatives from the Carroll County Health Department, Sheriff's Department, Rising Above Addiction, Maryland Addiction Recovery Center, Maryland Heroin Awareness Advocates, and Maryland Coalition of Families, as well as other mental health professionals. We hosted quarterly Community Q&A events which included a panel of experts and have offered Narcan training and the State's Attorney's Office TIPS Program.

2019 will usher in Phase Two: Mental Health Resources. We're also excited to announce our expanded partnership with Shepherd's Staff including the possibility of a satellite office here at Wesley Freedom, so that those in need from our community would not have to travel to Westminster.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

for helping Wesley Freedom UMC and its Family Resource Center
see the lives of people in our community forever changed by God's grace.

And a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:6

Henry is a first grader at Freedom Elementary. He and his family attend Wesley Freedom.

Henry's mom told us that while he was watching videos on his iPad, he decided he wanted to do something to help others who were being affected by the floods, tornados and fires he was hearing about – especially when he learned that some people lost everything.

Henry knew winter was coming and discussed his concerns with his mom. Together they decided to do a collection for hats, scarves, gloves, and socks.

Henry got busy making collection boxes. He asked his teacher if he could place one of the boxes in his classroom and asked his Mom to put a collection box at her office.

Henry's collection was very successful and Wesley Freedom's Mitten Tree was one of the organizations that benefited. Just before Christmas break, Henry came to Wesley Freedom (along with his Mom and sister) to hang many gloves, hats, scarves, and socks on the tree.

When asked why he wanted to do this, Henry said,
“People don't have much stuff to stay warm for the winter and I wanted to fix that.”

Congregational Care Ministry

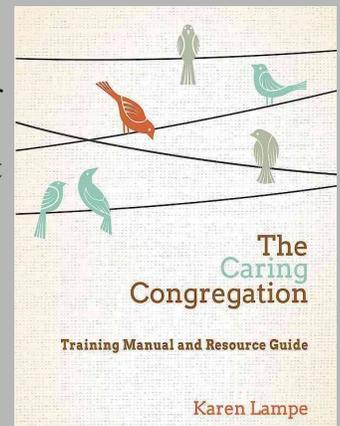
Wesley Freedom's Congregational Care Ministry Team are lay persons who work alongside the pastors and Stephen Ministers to provide care for our church family. It is a group of members who have been specially trained to provide care through prayer, visitation, and comfort in times of illness, grief, and other personal and family struggles.

The Congregational Care Team actively looks for people in our congregation who may need support from ministries here at the church such as a prayer shawl or prayer cross, emergency meals, a Stephen Minister, and a hospital or home visit. Team members are well-versed in resources provided by the Family Resource Center and work to make connections to address specific needs.

The most important role of the Congregation Care Team is to provide a sense of God's presence in every situation along with the reassurance that, as a church, we love and care for each other.

Everyone goes through a time in their life when they could use a simple phone call, visit or prayer knowing that someone cares about them and that they are not forgotten or alone during difficult time in their lives.

If you or someone you know could use the Congregation Care Team, or if you would like to be part of the Team, please contact Rev. Elizabeth LeMaster through the church office phone number: 410-795-2777, Ext. 15.



2019 Narrative Budget

This is the story of how your financial support becomes ministry. We thank you for all that you give! Over the past year at Wesley Freedom, God has been doing some amazing things through our ministries, and calling us in prayer to fulfill our mission to **make disciples of Jesus Christ who share the story of God's grace**. Here we look forward to how our 2019 budget will be used to fulfill our vision to see the lives of people in our community forever changed by God's grace.

2019 Budget: \$1,059,358*

*Salaries are included in work area costs

Administration \$200,821	Christian Formation \$243,903	Community Life \$84,796	Facilities \$293,000	Mission/ Outreach \$24,950*	Music & Worship \$118,159
<p>Providing our congregation, pastors and ministry area leaders with the support they need to implement and carry out the mission of Wesley Freedom UMC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Sanctuary Training • Website • Electronic Giving • Bulletins & Mailings <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Conference Payments \$118,680</p> </div>	<p>Children, Youth and Family Ministries strategically work together to create a pathway for people of all ages to nurture faith and grow toward maturity in Christ, from birth throughout adulthood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery/Sunday School • Bible Project/3rd grade Bibles • Discovery/Youth retreats • Adult Small Groups • Vacation Bible School • Childcare for evening classes • Confirmation 	<p>Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor. Community life works to ensure that we are caring for our neighbors both inside and outside the church, Your passion for this ministry has allowed us to launch our Family Resource Center to a network of support for families in crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grief Share • Congregational Care Ministers • Stephen Ministers • Hospitality Team • Connectors 	<p>We are not only supporting the mission of our church by providing space and amenities for our existing ministries, but we also serve as a mission outpost for many groups within our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Learning Center • Support Groups for Suicide and Overdose Loss • Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts • Alcoholics, Narcotics, and Overeaters Anonymous 	<p>Whether we are in West Virginia or the Dominican Republic, we extend the hope and love of Christ to a world in need by offering our resources, presence and service for the glory of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids Creating Kindness • Ramp It Up • Adult & Youth Mission Teams • South Carroll Food Pantry • Bikes for the World • Rise Against Hunger <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>*Second-mile giving designated to Mission/ Outreach and not included in the regular budget.</p> </div>	<p>Music and Worship provide inspiring ways to connect to God by giving people of all ages opportunities to express their faith, explore their God-gifted talents, and offer those gifts back to God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring Worship Services • Orchestra • Choir Opportunities for all ages • Worship Teams • Hand bells

A detailed line-item budget is available from the office upon request.

Strategic Goals:

- Engage 4,000 people in the life of Wesley Freedom by launching multiple venues in 21784
- Equip 75% of the worshipping congregation to give back through a personal ministry; train 25% of the worshipping congregation to be servant leaders.
- Establish a comprehensive Family Resource Center in South Carroll County.

FINANCIALS

OPPORTUNITIES

Year-End Financial Statement Wesley Freedom Budget	YTD 1/1/18- 12/31/18
<u>Income</u>	
Weekly Contributions	\$988,835
EYLC Contribution	83,000
Other Building Usage	4,116
Interest	584
Fundraising Activities	27,470
Total Income	\$1,104,006
<u>Expenses</u>	
Salaries and Related Costs	\$519,090
Mortgage Interest Payments	121,141
Building Expenses (1)	154,122
Ministry Area Costs (2)	62,957
Administrative Costs	40,357
Conference Payments	113,693
Expenses for Designated Reserve (3)	50,000
Total Expenses	\$1,061,360
Net Income	\$42,646
Mortgage Principle Payments	\$12,532
Net Income for Cash Flow	\$30,114

(1) Includes electricity, water, oil & natural gas, insurance, custodial services & maintenance

(2) Includes education, worship, youth council, care of members

(3) For WFUMC contribution to Capital Campaign

Easter Choir—Wednesdays 7:00-7:45pm during Lent (March 13—April 17). This choir will lead Easter Worship on April 21 with the orchestra.

March 31 @ 1pm: VBS Open Online Registration Opens

April 13: Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event We will package 20,000 meals in just 2 hours! The meals will travel to school children in our country and around the world. Servants of all ages are welcome and needed. Service hours will be awarded to students. Contact Betty Evans to sign up 443-604-6027 or nanabte@gmail.com.

April 18 @ Noon and 7pm: Holy Thursday Worship

April 19 @ Noon and 7pm: Good Friday Worship

April 21 Easter Worship @ Wesley Freedom

6:30am – Worship with Communion

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am – Easter Worship

Vacation Bible School – July 15-19, 2019. Currently registering adult volunteers. Email vbs@wesleyfreedom.org if you are interested in serving.

Adult Mission Trip – June 23-29, 2019 to Lewisburg, West Virginia. Contact Tim Boyer (tjzboyer@comcast.net) for more information.

Tech Ministry—Computer, camera, and sound board operators are needed for all worship services. Training will be provided. Contact Dan Eschlman at deschlman@wesleyfreedom.org.

Financial Statement Capital Campaign	Full Year of 2017
<u>Income</u>	
Capital Campaign Total Income	\$777,225
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Misc. Expenses	\$634
Small Mortgage Payoff	\$194,541
Net Income	\$582,050

Our Mission at Wesley Freedom:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ who share the story of God's grace.

Our Vision: To see the lives of people in our community forever changed by God's grace.