



Music

Monica Harper Dekle, Director of Music & Organist
912-232-0191 Ext. 213, monica@wesleymonumental.org

Dear Wesley Congregation,

You are the friendliest, kindest, most caring people in Savannah. Thank you for supporting the choirs and all our music. Your enthusiasm encourages us and inspires us to do our very best for our Lord. Andrew and I also thank each of you for your friendships and for supporting the two of us. You are our family. Merry Christmas, and happy New Year!

With gratitude,
Monica



Alpha Class Christmas Party.
(Photo by Les Wilkes)



Membership

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach & New Members
912-234-9245, tbordeaux@prodigy.net



Start the New Year in a Bible Study!

All are welcome:

Young Mothers' Bible Study (Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.)

Bring your baby and your Bible!

Nelle will teach "Jesus fulfills Old Testament Prophecies." Corresponding course for children with Bible story and art project taught by the fearless quartet of Miang Chow, Susan Martin, Darcy Melton, and Charli Weeks.

Evangelism Bible Study (Ruth's Chris, 111 West Bay Street, Thursdays, Noon to 1:00 p.m.)

Nelle will teach 2 Kings. No charge for lunch but donations given for the waiters.



Bible Buddies Brunch

(left) Attending their first party are newborns Owain DeYoung, Lillian Rabe, and Ragen Pavlo, with two-year-old James McDermott. (right) Leslie Shor, Caroline McDermott, and Molly Pavlo are the adults.



Urban Hope Thanksgiving Meal

Bible Buddies and Young Mothers' Bible Study enjoyed serving a Thanksgiving meal for the Urban Hope children on November 13. Following the Thanksgiving meal, every child made a baby Jesus figure to take home.



Missions

Rev. Stephen J. Tisinger, Missions
410-608-4835, steve.tisinger@wesleymonumental.org

Love Walk - February 10

Each year, Wesley Community Center has a "Love Walk" to support the ministries and programs of that organization. Wesley Monumental will be sponsoring a team in this year's walk. While the church will be supporting the walk financially, individuals will also be asked to gain sponsors to raise additional funds for the Center. Julie Tisinger will be coordinating the team for us this year. She will have registration forms available and will be the point of contact for turning in the paperwork. The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. and walkers will be asked to be at the site earlier. Registration/sponsor sheets and funds are due back to Julie by the end of supper on Wednesday, February 7.



Love Walk 2017



Youth

James P. Owens, Director of Youth & College Ministries
912-232-0191 Ext. 202, james@wesleymonumental.org

Last semester was a lot of fun at Sunday night youth group! We enjoyed redneck games, zombies vs. humans and other games. We sat around one table for dinner enjoying Christian fellowship. We also read the Gospel of Mark and discussed its meaning. Our students also led us in worship on Youth Sunday in October, and our youth choir sang beautifully during worship on November 19.

Here is what to look forward to coming up in 2018:

Parent's Night, January 21

All 6th-12th graders and their parents (and siblings) are invited to come learn more about what we do in the Wesley Youth Group and why this is a great group of kids for your child to be a part of! Parent's night will be Sunday evening, January 21, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Wesley Monumental.



Ski Retreat

We're planning for another awesome ski trip this winter! The Ski Retreat will be February 22-25, 2018. Cost will be \$350 per person, which includes lodging, lift ticket and ski rentals for two days of skiing. There are still some spots available!

Disciple Now Weekend

Our annual Disciple Now weekend will be April 6-8. D-Now weekend is a great time of fellowship, worship, and service. More information to come.

Confirmation

This year's Confirmation class began meeting in August. They are an enthusiastic and fun group! Confirmation Sunday will be April 22 and we will confirm them in the 11:00 service.

Summer Mission Trip

We will be going to Raleigh, NC and ministering to the community with Youthworks next summer. The dates of the trip are July 22-27, 2018. This mission trip is open to all 6th-12th graders. It will be an awesome opportunity to serve God together!



January At-A-Glance

Please refer to "This Week at Wesley" in the Sunday Order of Worship, or visit our website for a detailed list of worship times, additional events and information.

Wednesday Night Supper (WNS) Schedule

4:45 Call to Prayer, SNC
5:15 Supper, FH
6:00 Joyful Noise, EB Rms 202, 203, 205
6:00 Children's Choirs, EB Rms 301, 304, 305, 4th Flr
6:00 Youth Girls' Bible Study, EB 4th Flr
6:00 Youth Guys' Bible Study, EB 4th Flr
6:00 Bible Study, FH
7:15 Chancel Choir, EB 4th Flr
*WNS times and events are subject to change.

Monday, January 1
New Year's Day—Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 3
Eli's Place Returns
No WNS
6:00 UMW Board Mtg

Saturday, January 6
5:30 Chancel Choir Epiphany Party
Home of Grace Grund

Sunday, January 7
Nativity Art Show, OH Parlor

Monday, January 8

11:00 Merry Makers, FH
Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, January 9

5:30 Board of Trustees Mtg

Wednesday, January 10

See WNS Schedule
5:50 Confirmation Class, OH

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Office & Eli's Place Closed
2:00 Courtney Gaines Circle

Tuesday, January 16

6:00 Pacesetters, FH

Wednesday, January 17

See WNS Schedule
6:00 Susanna Wesley Circle Mtg, OH 310

Thursday, January 18

10:00 Messenger Brigade, OH 210

Sunday, January 21

12:15 Merry Makers Game Day with Wesley Children, FH
5:00 Youth Parent's Night, FH

Monday, January 22

2:00 Joy Circle Mtg.

Tuesday, January 23

2:00 Care & Share, OH 310

Wednesday, January 24

10:30 Jane Shirah Circle
Home of Gloria Eitel

Thursday, January 25

6:00 UMM Dinner Mtg, FH

EB = Education Building OH = Oliver Hall
FH = Fellowship Hall
SNC = Sanctuary
WG = Wesley Gardens Retreat Center

Prayer Committee

Pray, Pray, Pray!
150 Days of Prayer
There is no limit to the power of prayer...unless you don't. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are asking while the Lord is telling us to pray constantly. As we celebrate Wesley's 150th Year Anniversary, we will begin a daily prayer vigil focusing on various needs and issues within our families, our Church, our neighborhoods, schools, communities, state, country and world.

150 Days of Prayer

Yes! I'll pray for the first 150 days in 2018!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Please tear off and drop in offering plate or return to church office.

UMM

January 2018 Meeting

Wesley's United Methodist Men will meet Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Keith Ellis, and the title of his presentation will be "Current Healthcare Issues."



Early Childhood Ministries

Charli Weeks, Director of Early Childhood Ministries
912-232-0191 Ext. 204, charli@wesleymonumental.org

We have 2 special events happening in January. Read below for details!

Baptisms and Early Childhood Sunday School Kick Off Party

By the time you read this, the presents will have all been unwrapped, gifts will have been returned or exchanged, the tree may already be down and packed away and you may be looking forward to a quiet, uneventful month of January with just a little bit of football excitement to start the year.

But, exciting things are always happening in the Early Childhood Ministry area of our church and we are looking forward to two special events in January.

On Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus and reaffirm the vows we took at our own baptism. Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are adopted by grace into Christ's holy church and we become members of the community of believers called the "church." When an adult is baptized they promise to respond to God's grace with faith and love. When a child is baptized, the parents make a commitment to raise the child in faith and the church makes a commitment to support and encourage the family in their walk with Christ. There is no "right" age for someone to be baptized.

This year as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, we ask that you prayerfully consider having your child baptized if you have not already done so. Being baptized with a group of friends could give your child a connection with other believers that could last a lifetime. How encouraging it could be to have a Baptism Buddy at your church. If you have questions Rev. Martin will be happy to speak with you.

January 7 is also the day of the Early Childhood Sunday School Kick Off Party and the first Sunday of our Attendance Contest! The Kick Off Party will begin at 9:30 a.m. with everyone's favorite breakfast treats, balloons and maybe even a special visitor. Watch for your invitation coming in the mail the first week of January. Our attendance contest includes the Under Three Class, the Three Year Old Class, and the Pre K Class. There will be special prizes for the children and the parents of the class with the highest percentage of children attending. Make a New Year's Resolution to get involved in a Sunday School class this year.



2017 Polar Express Party!



The children were so excited to see Santa!





From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor
912-232-0191, ben@wesleymonumental.org



Happy 150TH Birthday Wesley Monumental

In January 1868, Rev. D.D. Cox was appointed to begin a new missionary work in Savannah. He was offered a little church on Drayton Street between Wayne and Gordon Streets that was owned by Trinity. On January 19, the mission was "reorganized" as Wesley church and fifty-four persons enrolled their names that day. For the last 150 years, Wesley Monumental UMC has been at work glorifying God and making followers of Jesus on this site. Today at Wesley we stand on the shoulders of the men and women of faith who have worshiped, served, prayed, witnessed, and given to make possible the beautiful space and meaningful ministry we experience here today. It is our hope that 150 years from now new generations of followers of Jesus will still be worshiping and serving here because we joined those who came before us in that ever rolling stream of faith.

This year as we celebrate our 150th Church Anniversary, we will be looking back with gratitude at where we have been, celebrating where we are now, and looking forward to the future with hope. On Sunday morning, February 4, we will be joined in worship by our Bishop, Lawson Bryan, to celebrate this "monumental" anniversary. Throughout the year we will be highlighting our 150 years of ministry with special events like the choir's presentation of Bach Mass in B minor on May 19, 150 Days of Prayer, a special 150th mission emphasis, etc.

As an historical and traditional church, it is vitally important we remember who we are and where we came from, and as a vibrant and growing congregation we are seeking the vision God has for our future. We look forward to this being a great year of celebration and ministry in which Christ is lifted up and people are drawn to him through this great church. We are excited about what God has in store for us, please be praying for this new "Monumental" year.



Senior Adults

Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults/Pastoral Care
912-308-3385, carolyn@wesleymonumental.org

Merry Makers

The Merry Makers, our senior adult fellowship group, will meet on Monday, January 8, at 11:00 a.m. at the church. The program will be presented by members of the Altar Guild. Please note that this is a program and location change from the printed Merry Makers program. Lunch will follow the program, and cost is \$7.00. Please make your reservation through your Sunday School class or by calling the church office.



Celebrating the Arts Among Us Art Show

Our third Celebrating the Arts Among Us Art Show will be on Sunday, February 4, in the Parlor of Oliver Hall. The show will feature works by Wesley members of the sanctuary building, Oliver Hall and Wesley Gardens. If you have a painting or photograph to share, please see Carolyn Hale Cubbedge no later than Sunday, January 28. This art show is in celebration of our 150th Anniversary observance.



Children and Family

Julie L. Tisinger, Director of Children & Family Ministries
912-232-0191 Ext. 209, julie@wesleymonumental.org



Games Day with the Merry Makers

All elementary age children and their families are invited to attend Games Day with the Merry Makers! Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship on January 21 for a light lunch, then play board games with our older adults group, the Merry Makers. This is a great opportunity for our children to get to know some of the older members of our congregation and have some fun with them! Bring your family's favorite board games to share, and RSVP to Julie Tisinger so we know how much food to prepare.

All families with K-6th Grade children are invited to join us on the 2018 Family Mission Trip

Who:

K-6th graders and their families (older and younger siblings included!)

What:

Focused on helping our younger members grow in service and mission to others in the community. Also a time for families to be engaged in service together. Projects will be age appropriate based on the makeup of the group, serving the community around Brunswick and St. Simon's Island.

Where to Stay and Eat:

Hotel and Dining Hall at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island (rooms are two Queen beds)

Dates:

February 23-25 (dinner Friday through lunch Sunday)

Cost:

Deposit of \$20 per participant due with registration by January 14. Final cost for a family will depend upon the composition of the family, but should not exceed \$300. Cost includes Friday and Saturday night lodging, and meals Friday night through Sunday lunch.

Questions:

Contact Julie or Steve Tisinger (church office 912-232-0191; julie@wesleymonumental.org; steve.tisinger@wesleymonumental.org)

2017 Attendees:

Beckwith Family, Carroll Family, Cheshire Family, Grabowski Family, Hagan/Hoffman Family, Herndon Family, Mattocks Family, Mobley Family, Montjoy Family, Tisinger Family, Wilkes Family



2017 Advent Festival



The 2017 Advent Festival was held Sunday, December 3.

429 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Advent Festival

On December 3, sixteen families of elementary age children participated in our Advent Festival. They had a wonderful time decorating ornaments, making Advent Wreaths, decorating Christ candles, coloring an Advent poster, and decorating cookies.



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Life at Wesley



Youth Choir dinner at Mellow Mushroom.



(above) Members of the Joy Circle attending their Christmas Luncheon.



Members attending the Alpha Class Christmas Party.



On November 13, the Bible Buddies & Young Mothers' Bible Study enjoyed serving a Thanksgiving meal for the Urban Hope Children.



Wesley friends at the Bridge Run.

