



Membership

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

Welcome, New Members!
We are thankful the following joined during November. Our next New Member Course will be Sundays, December 1 and 8, at 10:00 a.m. both days, nursery provided, with the class joining as a group on December 8 during the 8:45 service. Please sign up, 912-232-0191.



Kelsey and Jesse Bentley and children, Saige and Walker Bentley
Already Kelsey is in the Young Mothers' Bible Study. They came to Wesley through Eli's Place, where Saige is enrolled. Baby Walker is not yet a student.

Shepherds: Allison and Jim Willis
Children's Shepherds: Alli Mac and Hattie Willis



Travis McGinley & daughter, Tatum Ellen McGinley
Travis grew up in Savannah and works at the Ace Hardware on Mall Boulevard. His infant daughter, Tatum, is six months old.
Shepherd: Tiffany Welch
Tatum's Shepherd: Ally Welch



Missions

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Picnic with a Purpose
Spark Joy! Children and adults welcome to help organize a mission closet for people in need. Thursday, December 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Oliver Hall lobby. Enjoy Christmas cookies!



Urban Hope
Please take an ornament from the Fellowship Hall tree with an Urban Hope child's name and age. Then, please return the wrapped gift to Urban Hope by December 13 between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Mary Geoffrey and her son, Elonga Ayiokobuy, and her brother, Sunday Likambo
Newly arrived from Democratic Republic of Congo, this family all were baptized at Wesley. Sunday works with pallets, and Mary has been part of the Young Mothers' Bible Study for two months.

Three-year-old Elonga's first word in English was his Bible Buddies teacher's name, Miss Miang Chow! They speak Lugbaran, and Sunday also speaks Swahili.
Shepherds: Anne and Jake Coakley, Alice Anne and John Coakley, and Caroline and Corey McDermott
Elonga's shepherd: James McDermott



Mary Kathryn and Chris Smith
The Smiths enjoy Wesley's traditional worship and downtown history, as they live downtown. Chris grew up in Orlando, FL, and Mary Kathryn is from Atlanta. Chris owns Zunzis Takout and Catering, and Mary Kathryn is a Realtor licensed with Celia Dunn Sothebys.
Shepherds: Christina and Carl Varnedoe and Mary Mobley and Stafford Louise Varnedoe



Family Promise
Please pray for circumstantially homeless families, our guests from December 1-7 in Oliver Hall.

Children in the Hospital
Boxes are by all church entrances for small stuffed animals for children in the hospital. We especially need helpers to deliver to children on Christmas morning. We'll meet at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on Christmas morning, Washington Avenue at Waters Avenue (please park on Washington Avenue) at 8:00 a.m. and finish by 2:00 p.m. Please sign up with Nelle, 912-234-9245. Helpers need to be age 12 or older due to hospital rules.



Missions Cont.

Family Justice Center by Scott Cleaveland, Missions Chair



The greatest blessing is to be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing for the right reason. Through a call for assistance I received from Asbury Memorial UMC, a team of Wesley men helped a non-profit initiated by the District Attorney's Office retrofit a city space into the Family Justice Center. Livingoods Appliance and Gordon L Hitt General Contractor, both of our congregation, gave their support as well. We framed out doors and built out a secure reception area. On December 16 the Family Justice Center will open as a one-stop support for kids, families and elders facing abuse. From the secure center, they will be given counseling and advocacy, plus be put in touch with agencies that provide support. This opportunity for service continued WMUMC's missional call to assist families and children in the name of Jesus Christ.



December Mission Prayer Calendar

1 Family Promise guests—Permanent housing for them.	2 New members who came to class yesterday.	3 Evangelism efforts at Christmas (Evangelism Committee meets today at 5:30 p.m. at church)
4 Nativity pageant practices to glorify Him	5 Picnic with a Purpose to organize a new mission closet today, 3:30—4:30 p.m.	6 Practices for <i>Messiah</i> to reach unchurched
7 Runners in Bridge Run to know Him as Lord	8 New members who will join today; for the right Shepherds to inspire them in faith; Lessons and Carols guests to come to faith	9 Final budget planning for churches everywhere during a hectic month.
10 Urban Hope children for protection	11 Messiah musicians to know Him as Lord	12 Greenbriar Children's Center celebrating its 70th year and preparing Christmas concert
13 Messiah practices	14 Messiah to be worshipful and to draw all to Christ	15 Communion stewards working to be ready for December 24
16 Students and teachers in final exams	17 Eli's Place children and teachers	18 Tiny House veterans
19 Family Justice Center battered women and children to find peace	20 Focus on Christ and His kingdom, not on myself	21 Refugee ministry to show Christ's light; furniture delivery; Homeless breakfast today.
22 Living Vine mothers, children and staff	23 Church clerical staff preparing extra bulletins, Jennifer and Daphne	24 All who attend Christmas Eve services; all who are home-bound and cannot come
25 Children in hospitals and adults in nursing homes who will be visited today by Wesley	26 Rest for parents of young children	27 Prison Ministries
29 Grieving people	30 Young people seeking a vocation	28 Unemployed and discouraged people
		31 Gratitude for the past year

Please cut out this calendar and put it by your Bible.

December 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	Sunday, December 8	Tuesday, December 17
4:45 Call to Prayer, SNC	10:00 New Member Class, OH 205	1:15 Staff Christmas Luncheon
5:00 4th/5th Grade Bible Study, OH 405	11:00 Lessons & Carols, SNC	Wednesday, December 18
5:30 Supper, FH	Monday, December 9	No WNS or Programs
6:00 Joyful Noise, EB Rms 202, 203, 205	11:00 Merry Makers Christmas Event, WG	Saturday, December 21
6:00 Children's Choirs, EB Rms 303, 304, 305	Tuesday, December 10	7:45 Homeless Breakfast
6:00 Youth Girls' Bible Study, EB 4th Flr	Eli's Place Polar Express Day	Sunday, December 22
6:00 Youth Guys' Bible Study, EB 4th Flr	2:00 Prayer Partners Mtg, OH 308	12:00 Lunch for Carolers, FH
6:00 Long Story Short Bible Study, FH	Wednesday, December 11	Depart for Caroling
6:00 Every Good Endeavor Book Study, OH 310	5:30 Wednesday Night Supper	Tuesday, December 24
7:15 Chancel Choir, EB 4th Flr	6:15 Nativity Pageant	Christmas Eve
*WNS times and events are subject to change.	Thursday, December 12	10:30 Communion Svc, SNC
Sunday, December 1	10:00 Messenger Brigade	3:30 Communion Svc, SNC
Family Promise thru 12/7	Friday, December 13	6:00 Communion Svc, SNC
10:00 New Member Class, OH 205	9:30 Young Mothers' Bible Study	Wednesday, December 25
10:00 Confirmation Class, EB 406	Brunch, Nelle's Home	Christmas
5:00 Youth Group Christmas Party, FH	Saturday, December 14	Church Office & Eli's Place Closed
Tuesday, December 3	9:00 Eli's Place Fun Day	8:00 Deliver Stuffed Animals, Hospitals
2:00 Care & Share, OH 310	7:30 Wesley Choir Presents Handel's Messiah, SNC	Thursday, December 26
5:30 Evangelism Comm. Mtg.	Sunday, December 15	Church Office & Eli's Place Closed
6:00 Pacesetters, FH	12:30 4th/5th Grade Christmas Party, Home of Amy Green	Monday, December 30
Wednesday, December 4	4:30 Joyful Noise Choir Christmas Celebration, SNC	5:30 Missions Comm. Mtg, OH 205
See WNS Schedule		
6:00 UMW Board Mtg, OH 310		
Thursday, December 5		
3:30 Picnic w/a Purpose, Oliver Hall		
Saturday, December 7		
11:00 Jane Shirah Christmas Party, OH		

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

Youth

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries
912-232-0191 Ext. 209, james@wesleymonumental.org

At Sunday evening Youth Group (Sundays, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.), we usually choose a theme for our lessons to focus on each fall and spring. This fall our theme has been Christian Practices. We have learned about many of the most important practices of the Christian faith. As important as Christian beliefs are, our faith is also a practice-based faith. We cannot understand Christianity apart from practices like the Eucharist, baptism, Bible study, and prayer.

Our 6th-12th graders have learned how to put their faith into practice. Each week, we've chosen a different practice, heard some teaching on it, and then spent some time practicing it. Some of the practices we have learned about are Bible study, journaling, singing, and praying the Psalms.

Our youth group is a wonderful place for middle schoolers and high schoolers to connect with God and one another. We meet for youth group every Sunday night from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., and also have Sunday school from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and Bible studies every Wednesday night.

Here are some upcoming events on the Youth Ministry calendar:

- Christmas Party - December 1, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Wesley Monumental
- Ski Retreat, Snowshoe, WV - February 6-9, 2020



Children's Ministry

Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry
912-232-0191 Ext. 225, charli@wesleymonumental.org

We have several exciting events taking place in December. Read below for details.



Christmas Presentations

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for our children's Christmas presentations. The Elementary children are working diligently to learn their lines and songs for the **Nativity Pageant** to be presented on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:15 p.m. The Joyful Noise choir children will present their **Christmas Celebration Program** on Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m. Both programs will be in the sanctuary and everyone is welcome.

Christmas Ornament Painting



On Sunday, December 8, we'll be painting pottery ornaments in room 202 and room 303 immediately following the 11:00 service. These ornaments can be hand-painted by your child and then they are glazed and fired by professionals. This year we have some new designs including a star, cross, snowman, and stocking. The ornaments make great Christmas presents for grandparents or other family members. Ornaments are \$13 each and come with a ribbon for hanging. No need to make a reservation, we'll have all the supplies ready for you, and the ornaments will be ready for pick up on December 20.

Christmas Fun Day for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers

On Saturday, December 14, the nursery will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for Christmas Fun Day! We enjoy having the children come and spend the day with us, and we hope all of their parents have some time to enjoy the Christmas season. We have lots of activities planned for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. We are providing lunch and plan to eat around noon. We'll make ornaments, bake cookies, play on the playground, and watch a Christmas movie. It is fine for the children to come for the whole day or for any part of the day. To register, send an email to charli@wesleymonumental.org with the time they will be arriving on the 14th.



Fall Festival



We were thankful it stopped raining just after lunch so everyone could enjoy the afternoon at our Fall Festival at Wesley Gardens Retreat Center. There were four giant inflatables with the Toxic Wipeout being the most popular as children of all ages flung themselves from one big

ball to the next. The children had fun setting off ghost rockets, making slime, and pumpkin fishing. Mr. James and the members of our youth group did a great job leading the children's activities. The children kept Ms. Nelle very busy driving the hayride. Ms. Suzanna had a fabulous nacho bar set up in the Main House, and we roasted marshmallows and made S'mores at the fire pit. Everyone went home happy and tired.



Halloween Costume Parade & Storybook Party



The Eli's Place children had fun parading around the Fellowship Hall in their Halloween costumes to spooky Halloween music. After the parade, the children visited different Halloween story stations where a parent volunteer read a book to them and handed out treats to share.





From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor
912-232-0191, Ext. 216, ben@wesleymonumental.org



Generosity Gives Birth to Generosity

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."

-2 Corinthians 9

The Christmas season has a heavy emphasis on giving. At the heart of our remembrance is that "God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son." We remember this great act of sacrificial giving by being generous ourselves. Our thankful hearts are moved to bless God as we give beyond ourselves.

At Wesley we have recently been the beneficiary of just such a sacrificial gift. A family in our church has given an anonymous gift of \$194,000 to help us retire our remaining \$385,000 of debt on the restoration of Oliver Hall. The gift was given in hopes that the rest of us would be moved by that sacrificial gift to collectively match the gift and retire our debt. Before we ever publicized it, another generous person whose heart was moved by this gift committed \$50,000. By now, most of you will have received a letter about this gift and the opportunity it affords us to be debt free. It is our prayer that on December 22, we will take a special offering (and commitments) and retire our debt. If we exceed our goal, the overage will go into our building fund to start laying the groundwork for the last part of our restoration in the education building (4th floor music space and new bathrooms on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors).

While it may seem a bit self-serving to be taking this offering at Christmas instead of a missions offering that serves outside our church, what retiring the debt will afford us to do is to put more money into our Missions budget next year instead of paying interest on this loan. There remains many ways to give to those in need during this season of giving. We will have several opportunities to support children with gifts to those in the hospital on Christmas and gifts for the children of Urban Hope.

We are so blessed to have such a generous congregation whose hearts are moved by the generosity of God to live and give of ourselves in return. The law of sowing and reaping continues to manifest itself here. May this Christmas season be one in which we honor the gift of God's son with our own gifts to bless God, His church, and the ministry we extend to our congregation, community, and world.



Congregational Life

Rev. Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Care
912-232-0191, Ext. 202, jennifert@wesleymonumental.org



Merry Christmas! Put on your red and green and join us at Wesley Gardens on Monday, December 9 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas party! Members of the barbershop chorus of Savannah, 13th Colony

Sound, will be sharing their talent with us through a special presentation of Christmas Music. We will also enjoy a meal and hear the Christmas story in a special way. Cost is \$7.00.



Christmas Eve Communion Services

Tuesday, December 24

- ◆ 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ◆ 3:30 PM Child-Friendly Svc (enjoyed by all ages)
- ◆ 6:00 PM Worship Service



Music

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



Festival of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m., the Chancel Choir and Youth Choir will present a festival of Lessons and Carols. This is a historic Service celebrating the nativity of our Lord through nine short Bible readings read by members of our congregation interspersed with the singing of carols, hymns, and choir music.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL'S

MESSIAH



Tina Williams,
soprano



Claire Watts,
mezzo-soprano



Timothy Miller,
tenor



Robert Cantrell,
bass

Saturday, December 14, 2019 7:30 P.M.

Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church
Calhoun Square 429 Abercorn Street Savannah, Georgia

Wesley Monumental Choir with Orchestra
Dr. Monica Dekle, conductor



Part One: Prophecy of the Coming of a Messiah and Christ's Nativity
Part Two: Christ's Suffering, Death, and Resurrection
Part Three: Affirmation of Christian Faith and Glimpses of Revelation

Tickets: www.MessiahSavannah.eventbrite.com
(912) 232-0191 monica@wesleymonumental.org
\$35 tax-deductible donation \$15 students with ID



429 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

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THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER

Life at Wesley



Children leading worship

In October, the petting zoo came to Eli's Place. The children had a blast petting and feeding the different farm animals.



Wesley's Staff-Parish Relations Chair recognizes and thanks Nat Legree for his 40 years of service at Wesley Monumental.



Making logs and rainbow coats during Sunday school.



Eli's Place children singing pumpkin carols and listening for the magic Halloween bells that ring when the children shake their hands.

Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Fall
Festival
Fun!





Additional Announcements



Prayer Committee



Call to Prayer

Everyone is invited to join the Prayer Committee and Rev. Martin each Wednesday afternoon from 4:45 p.m.—5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary for a time of prayer. The committee members pray for the church, staff, and needs of the congregation.



UMM

UMM Meeting

Wesley's United Methodist Men will not meet in December. The next meeting is planned for Thursday, January 16, 2020.



Poinsettias



Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Friday, December 20 and may be taken home following the last Christmas Eve service. Please place your orders for plants in memory or in honor of loved ones by Sunday, December 8. Order forms may be found at all sanctuary entrances. Checks should be made payable to Wesley Monumental UMC in the amount of \$13 per plant, marked "Altar Guild Poinsettias."

