

December
2021

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December 5, 2021

wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Children leading worship.



Ms. Patrizia's Pre-K class at Eli's Place had fun carving a pumpkin.



Eli's Place children enjoying their Halloween Parade and listening to a story.



Thanks to youth, Lena and Couper, for planting flowers on the Oliver Hall pergola.



Wesley member, Sheila Boone, was the guest speaker for this year's Veterans Day Breakfast.





From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor

Re-Think Christmas



Many of you will recall that for quite a few years we have taken up a Christmas Missions Offering that was called "Re-think Christmas." The title is self-explanatory for a Missions offering. Let's re-think how we spend on ourselves or on those who already have more than enough stuff and let's give a gift that is worthy of remembering that God gave His only begotten Son. That kind of gift will always be a sacrificial gift for others.

This year during Advent, I'm going to play off that "Re-Think Christmas" idea for the sermon series.

November 28 - Advent 1 - Rethink Christmas Pt. 1: Rethink My Doubts	Luke 1:5-25, 57-80
December 5 - Advent 2 - Rethink Christmas Pt. 2: Rethink My Purpose	Luke 1:26-56
December 12 - Advent 3 - Lessons & Carols	
December 19 - Advent 4 - Rethink Christmas Pt. 3: Rethink My Plans	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24 - Christmas Eve - Rethink Christmas Pt. 4: Rethink My Savior	Luke 2:1-20

I hope you will make plans to join us in "re-thinking" some things about our lives in light of the Christmas story. This year we will return to our practice of having the Lessons and Carols service at the 11:00 service only. And on Christmas Eve this year, we plan on offering four services: 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. (children-focused service), 5:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. (this service will feature the chancel choir). All the services will include special music and communion, and a nursery will be available for all of them.

And yes, in case you are wondering, we will still be taking a Christmas Missions Offering. Help us give a gift to others.



Prayer Committee

Prayer is the Language of the Heart

(Can be silent or verbal)



Matthew 18:20 Jesus says: "For where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there am I with them." Now, this is encouraging. Steve Harper, author of "Praying Through the Lord's Prayer," is a professor at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky (outside of Lexington). This seminary is where our own Jennifer Thompson graduated. Harper says prayer can be verbal or silent. He also says "this takes into consideration those who may become catatonic at the thought of having to say anything in a group." He also says that "Prayer is ultimately a language of the heart."

We, the Prayer Committee, strongly invite you to join us on Wednesdays from 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. in the Oliver Hall Parlor to pray, be silent before the Lord, and see what you think and feel about it. The staff, a few of us, and the Holy Spirit that gives you the desire and privilege, will show up. Hope to see you.
- Sue Ellis, Committee Chair



Congregational Life

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



December Merry Maker Events

Wednesday, December 1

Come "do lunch" with us! Dutch treat at 12 p.m. at Carrabba's Italian Grill at 10408 Abercorn Street. Check out the menu at www.carrabbas.com. Please RSVP to Jennifer or the church office by Sunday, November 28.



Monday, December 13

Encore! Back by popular demand, Wesley's own choir members will regale us once again with their very own Christmas program! Meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary (please use the front steps or the Gordon Street entrance for the elevator). A festive lunch prepared by Suzanna will follow in the Parlor on the second floor of Oliver Hall. Lunch is \$7. Please RSVP to Jennifer or the church office by Friday, December 10.



Children's Ministry

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



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. This year the pageant will be presented in the sanctuary following Wednesday Night Supper on December 15 at 6:15 p.m. The Joyful Noise choir children will present their Christmas Celebration Program, Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Christmas Ornament Painting

On Sunday, December 5, we'll be painting pottery ornaments in room 202 immediately following the 11:00 service. These ornaments can be hand-painted by your child and then they are glazed and fired by professionals. The ornaments make great Christmas presents for grandparents or other family members. Ornaments are \$12 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 19.

Christmas Fun Day for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers

On Saturday, December 11, 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 11th.



Christmas Eve Family Service

This year our Family Service will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. During this service the children bring in the pieces to our nativity scene. If your child would like to participate in this service, please send an email to charli@wesleymonumental.org.

More Fall Fun! The Eli's Place children loved participating in the Halloween Parade!



Wesley Monumental's annual Fall Festival at Wesley Gardens Retreat was a big hit.





Evangelism

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

Welcome New Members!

We are thankful the following joined the church during October. Our December New Member Course will be Sundays, December 12 and 19, at 10:00 a.m. The class will join December 19. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



Joy and Ed Garvin & daughters, Mary and Sarah Garvin

Joy is an agent with Colonial Life, and Ed is a lieutenant with the Chatham County Sheriff's Department. He likes to fish, and Joy enjoys crafts. Sarah and Mary are 16-year-old twins and are in the eleventh grade at Savannah Arts Academy, where they are friends with Angelina Stack, their shepherd. Sarah is preparing to go into the ministry, and Mary wants to go into the medical field.

Shepherds: Anne Marie and Don Stack

Sarah's and Mary's Shepherd: Angelina Stack



Jennifer Baker

Jennifer is a fulltime college student working on her accounting degree at Savannah Tech, but she also is the guardian for Michael, who loved that he became a church member even before Jennifer! She also helps count the offering; serves the meals at Wednesday night supper; and assists by cleaning for a homebound church member. Jennifer is happy when she is at church.

Shepherd: Michael Cooler



Lauren and Bryan Leskosky

Both Lauren and Bryan grew up in Macon, where Wade Herring's mother was Lauren's ninth-grade English teacher! Lauren is a master gardener, and she and Bryan planted all the azalea bushes at the newly completed Family Promise house for a homeless family, even before the Leskoskys joined the church. They are friends with Creede Hinshaw. Lauren and Bryan have a son, Louis John (Lou) Leskosky, who is a teacher in Warner-Robbins.

Shepherds: Susan and Wade Herring



Daily Chronological Bible Readings - December 2021

Bring your Stumper Questions to Sunday School on Sunday, January 2, in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom at 9:45 a.m., when we wrap up our year-long reading! Send questions to Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

December Bible Memory Verse:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." - Hebrews 11:1

Wednesday, 1	2 Corinthians 10-13	Friday, 17	1 Peter
Thursday, 2	Catch-Up Day	Saturday, 18	Hebrews 1-4
Friday, 3	Romans 1-4; Acts 20:1-3	Sunday, 19	Hebrews 5-8
Saturday, 4	Romans 5-8	Monday, 20	Hebrews 9-13
Sunday, 5	Romans 9-12	Tuesday, 21	2 Timothy
Monday, 6	Romans 13-16	Wednesday, 22	2 Peter; Jude
Tuesday, 7	Acts 20:4-23:35	Thursday, 23	Catch-Up Day
Wednesday, 8	Acts 24-26	Friday, 24	1 John; 2 John; 3 John
Thursday, 9	Catch-Up Day	Saturday, 25	Revelation 1-5
Friday, 10	Acts 27-28	Sunday, 26	Revelation 6-10
Saturday, 11	Philippians	Monday, 27	Revelation 11-13
Sunday, 12	Philemon; Colossians	Tuesday, 28	Revelation 14-18
Monday, 13	Ephesians 1-4	Wednesday, 29	Revelation 19-22
Tuesday, 14	Ephesians 5-6; Titus	Thursday, 30	Catch-Up Day
Wednesday, 15	1 Timothy	Friday, 31	Review!
Thursday, 16	Catch-Up Day		



Missions

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

Next Family Mission Project: Monday, December 13



Family Mission Project - Break Out the Sweet Potatoes with Marshmallows!

Come help serve a Christmas supper to 75 Urban Hope guests on Monday, December 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Independent Presbyterian Church (Bull at Oglethorpe). Please sign up with Nelle for a dish to prepare at home (such as green beans, rolls, salad, sweet potatoes, ham, cut fruit, cookies, etc.), and then bring it. Children will be the waiters and waitresses. Sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

First Friends Needed

Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, or 912-234-9245, to help welcome a newly arriving refugee family. Training provided.



Groceries Most Needed

Please put in boxes just inside all doors. The church takes 800 pounds of organized grocery sacks per month to Wesley Community Center for low-income children and seniors. Most needed are cereal, peanut butter, pasta, grits, oatmeal, canned vegetables, sacks of dry beans, rice, canned fruit, and canned meat.

Christmas Missions

If you signed up to bring Christmas presents for a specific Urban Hope child, please drop off your presents to Nelle's study or the Oliver Hall lobby on or before Sunday, December 12.

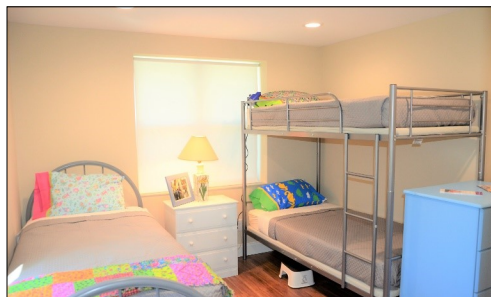
Extreme Home Makeover: Family Promise Edition



Huge thanks to Construction Ministry leader, Nick Hitt, for his expertise and leadership of all aspects of the home renovation at 218 Cumming Street and all the church's construction efforts.



Kitchen with appliances all donated by Livingood's and electrical work donated by Braddy Electric.



Children's room - with pillowcases sewn by Pat Killewald, Betty Sahlie, and Miang Chow



Youth

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

Over the weekend of October 15-17, a group of 4th and 5th grade students from Wesley Monumental participated in the annual KidzQuest retreat. This year, the retreat was held at beautiful Camp Jekyll on Jekyll Island. Our group enjoyed the beach! We also got to experience fun games and activities, energizing worship, and meaningful messages. Our students learned about God's great love for us, expressed through Jesus Christ. The theme of the weekend was based on Psalm 93:4 - Mightier than the waves of the ocean is God's love for us. Special thanks go out to Adria Wilkes for helping chaperone.



Grief Share



We are offering another 13-week session of Grief Share. If you, or someone you know, would like to participate in this beneficial ministry, please contact Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org or go directly to the Grief Share website www.griefshare.org, enter your zip code, and register for the class that is hosted by Wesley. The only cost is the workbook which can be ordered at registration and mailed directly to your home. We will begin the group meetings on Monday night, January 10, through Monday night, April 4. Anyone can join us. You do not have to be a church member and, because we are hosting this first group via Zoom, you don't even have to live in Savannah or in the same time zone. If you have experienced grief in any way, prayerfully consider participating in Grief Share.



Poinsettias



Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Friday, December 17 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 12.

Checks should be made payable to Wesley Monumental in the amount of \$15 per plant, marked "Altar Guild Poinsettias." Or visit <https://pushpay.com/g/wesleymonumental> to pay online. Select "Give one time" and "Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias" as the fund. Once paid, email the poinsettia order form to daphne@wesleymonumental.org or deliver to the church office by Sunday, December 12. Order forms may be found by all church entrances, on our website, or by emailing Jennifer Brookins, jennifer@wesleymonumental.org.



Music

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



Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

11:00 AM

Sunday, December 12

Choir, Organ, Brass Quintet,
and Timpani



Children led worship on October 24



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Fall Festival Fun at Wesley Gardens Retreat

