

January
2022

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wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Baking yummy
Thanksgiving treats
with Charli at Eli's
Place.



Children leading worship.



Monica playing music for the Eli's Place babies.



Eli's Place sailors, pilgrims, and Indians singing a variety of songs during their annual Thanksgiving Program.
Following their performance, they enjoyed muffins and cookies with their family and friends.





From Ben's Desk

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



Happy New Year!



I was amazed to discover that the soap opera "Days of Our Lives" is still running on T.V. It started in 1965. I only know that because I googled it. I was thinking about the tag line in the show's intro, "Like grains of sand through the hourglass so these are the days of our lives" (or something like that). I was thinking about how my awareness of how time has changed over the years. It seems to pass faster as I age. I also found an article that said there is some research that shows there is empirical evidence of that phenomenon. For years I wished my life away. I first remember wishing I was old enough to play "pee wee" football. In those days you didn't begin until the 4th grade. Then I was wishing I was old enough to drive, and then out on my own, and then and then and then.....(some days I wish I was old enough to retire!). But really, these days it is just the opposite, I keep wishing time would slow down. I find myself wanting to enjoy the moment more and yet it slips through my hands as a busy schedule keeps bearing down on me. So my New Year's resolution is to slow down. Strange how I have the same one every year, guess I'm failing in my ability to make it a reality. Not necessarily slow down externally, but internally. To be present in the moment more, to appreciate little things more, to pay attention more.

Some old friends of mine have, for many years, led a retreat ministry called The Green Bough House of Prayer. I mention them from time to time, a persistent longing I think for the peace I felt when visiting there. In the tradition of the monastic communities, they have a "rule of life" for the retreat center and those who visit. One of the rules is called The Sacrament of the Present Moment. It suggests that we live too much of our lives in the past and in the future. We are stuck longing for "good old days" or regretting past mistakes, or we are pulled by the future and constant planning and longing or dreading what is not yet. They say God is found and experienced not in the past (though God redeems it) or in the future (though God secures it), but in the present moment. The Psalmist recognized it long ago as God spoke through him in these profound words, "*Be still and know that I am God.*" Being committed to worship is one way to practice this discipline, and setting apart daily time for God is another. I am going to try avoiding things that will cause regret and trap me in the past or that cause worry and anxiety and drag me into the future. I want to encourage you this year to try practicing the "sacrament of the present moment." We can't slow down time, but we can savor it, be present in it, and appreciate each moment, knowing in the pain it will pass and in the joy it is a gift to be treasured. Happy New Year, may it be the best one yet. It might as well be, it is the only one we have.



Congregational Life

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

Merry Makers January Event

Monday, January 10 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Oliver Hall Parlor. Our guest speaker this month will be the Rev. David Thompson, the District Superintendent for the Coastal District of the South Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. David will share about the current state of the United Methodist Church, what is projected to happen in 2022, and his heart for the UMC. Please bring any questions you have with you. A delicious lunch will be prepared, as usual, by Suzanna. Please contact Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org or 229-726-7735 by Friday, January 6 if you would like to attend.



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 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.



Children's Ministry

Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry
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Our Christmas Traditions



Our Jesse Tree

This year during Advent, our children have been making ornaments to decorate our Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree tradition began in medieval times when people who were unable to read would look at pictures to remind them of lessons in the Bible. The Jesse Tree is a way of telling the story of God's plan from the beginning of time to redeem His people by sending a Savior. It follows the lineage of Christ's family and key people in the Old Testament that God uses to tell His story from Creation through Christ's birth. As we make the ornaments, we have an opportunity to review the stories and create a symbol that is a visual reminder of the story. Our Jesse Tree will be on the right front side of the Sanctuary through Epiphany. Be sure to look at the ornaments and see which stories you remember.



Christingles

In Children's Worship, we continue the tradition of making Christingles. A Christingle has 5 parts that help the children know God and Jesus. (1) The orange stands for the world. (2) The red band around the orange is for the love and blood of Jesus. (3) The sweets remind us of God's creation and how God provides all we need through the four seasons of the year. (4) The four toothpicks remind us of the four corners of the world and that we are to spread the good news about Jesus all over. (5) The candle reminds us of Jesus Himself. We remember that Jesus is the light that came into the world at Christmas.



Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration

On December 12, the Joyful Noise Choir presented their annual Christmas Celebration Program.



At Eli's Place, our adorable toddlers love wearing their reindeer crowns.





Evangelism

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

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during November. Our January New Member Course will be Sundays, January 16 and 23 at 10:00 a.m., with the class joining as a group on January 23. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



Vicki Dougherty

Vicki grew up in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Her sister is Judy Pitts, and her nieces are Sara Pitts and Emmy Wilcox. Vicki helps as a communion steward in preparing the elements for worship. Her family and dear friend, Pat Duffy, all are Vicki's shepherds.

Shepherds: Judy and Lynn Pitts, Sara Pitts, Emmy and Mark Wilcox, and Harper and Lyla Wilcox, and Pat Duffy



Linda and Rev. Noel Cooper

Already the Coopers are Prayer Partners for a Sudanese refugee child and have been assisting his family. Also, Noel is an invaluable participant in the Thursday noon Bible study. Linda is a nurse, and Noel is a minister. Noel's son, Clif Cooper, is also a Wesley member. *Shepherds: Ann and Melvin Croft*



Elane and Edd Finley

The Finleys joined on the day their grandson, Silas Kerby, was baptized. The Finleys moved to Savannah from Amory, Mississippi to be near their grandson. They have two daughters, one in Thailand, and the other in Savannah, Christa Kerby. The Finleys have an Urban Hope child as their Prayer Partner. Elane is a choral director, having served St. Andrews UMC in Amory for over 30 years, and Edd is an engineer. Their shepherds are among the first people they met.

Shepherds: Barbara and Johnny Phelps



Bring on the Bible Stumper Questions!

Sunday, January 2 at 9:45 a.m. Any question is fair game! For the 145 members who have read the entire Bible this year, please come to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday, January 2. Send your question to Nelle ahead of time, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, or bring questions that day. All are welcome!

Suzanna Wesley Circle Presents



SAVE THE DATE

January 28, 2022 | 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Wesley Monumental

PLEASE CONTACT THE SUSANNA WESLEY CIRCLE,
SWCIRCLEWM@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Family Fun!

Family Bingo and Dinner Night

Presented by Susanna Wesley Circle

Friday, January 28

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wesley Monumental Fellowship Hall

Lots of Fun and prizes!

Adults \$10 Children \$5 Family Max \$30

To purchase tickets,

Venmo @CameronSchmitz81 with your name and number attending

You can also reserve seats and pay at the door by emailing: swcirclewm@gmail.com

Grand Prize includes a

Family Beach Weekend at Tybee!

All proceeds benefit charities within our Community!



Missions

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

Upcoming Family Mission Projects: January 14 and 21



Family Mission Projects: Pine Cone Pick-Up Party & Packing Party for Wesley Community Center
The Pine Cone Pick-Up Party will take place Friday, January 14 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Living Vine, 535 East 54th Street. Then the Packing Party for Wesley Community Center will be held Friday, January 21, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bring a canned good to the Oliver Hall lobby, as we'll sack groceries. All are welcome, including children of all ages. To sign up, email Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Amen Handymen

Senior members needing a home repair are invited to call Nelle, 912-234-9245. Steve Eberhardt leads this ministry.



Wesley Community Center

Please put canned goods in boxes just inside all doors.

First Friends

Welcome to all who are greeting a newly arriving refugee family from Afghanistan with five children, including Holly McCormick, Bren Kos, Lynne Bozeman, Steve Eberhardt, Cindy Burton, Sharlene Monahan, and Pat Killewald. All are invited to assist. Holly McCormick leads the refugee ministry.



Cabinet-Building

Beds and cabinets are underway at Nick Hitt's shop for Tiny Houses for homeless veterans. Please tell Nelle if you want to help, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. Nick Hitt leads the construction ministry.

Thank you for your generosity.



Coats for Children

The Re-Think Christmas Mission Offering serves local and overseas missions, with the offering divided in half every year (local and international). Many refugee children need jackets, which you have provided.



Thanksgiving turkeys and sacks of side dishes for every Urban Hope family, with a handmade card from children.



Thank You!

Y'All Haul - setting up a Family Promise transitional apartment with furniture donated by Nancy and Woody Brown and Karen Payne, hauled by Peter Delvers, Sharlene and Pat Monahan, Rev. Noel Cooper, and Woody Brown.



Wednesday Night Supper & Adult Classes

Wednesday night suppers and the following adult classes will begin again on
Wednesday, January 12:

♦ ***Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments* by Adam Hamilton**

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of “Thou shalt not” rules found in the Bible. Jesus saw those commandments not as burdens but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. The ten ancient “words” were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully together, and protect us—often from ourselves.” Ben Martin will continue this study he began in the fall in the Fellowship Hall. Book available on Cokesbury.com or Amazon.

♦ ***Epic of Eden: Ruth* by Sandra Richter**

Set in the midst of one of the most corrupt eras of Israelite history, Ruth is a story about three compelling characters: Naomi, an elderly widow who has lost everything and returns to her homeland empty and bitter; Ruth, Naomi’s daughter-in-law, also a widow, and a foreigner; and Boaz, the local patriarch—a man of wealth and influence. Participants in this study—young and old, men and women, church and unchurched—will be challenged as they see themselves in these characters and find themselves faced with many of the same questions and challenges. Here is real life, lived out by real people with real fears, real struggles, real hope, and real faith. Jennifer Thompson will be leading this study in room 205, on the second floor of Oliver Hall. Email Jennifer at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org for a PDF of the study book.

♦ **Young Women’s Small Group**

If you are a young woman, you will want to join Katie Knight in the Parlor of Oliver Hall on Wednesday nights for a time of sharing and spiritual encouragement!



Prayer Committee



The New Year

The New Year 2022 brings fresh starts, new beginnings - do overs! It is a chance to discover new territory. Oswald Chambers says “Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ. Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.” Isaiah 52:12 says “You will not leave in haste...for the Lord will go before you.” What an encouragement. God has plans for us and is always forgiving, loving, and on our side.

We meet to pray, listen, talk to our Lord every Wednesday from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Oliver Hall Parlor. We invite you to join us. It’s a new year and a new day! - Sue Ellis, Committee Chair



Jane Shirah Circle

January Meeting

The Jane Shirah Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. on January 26 at the home of Gloria Eitel, 17 Bundy Park, Savannah, 31404.



Christmas Photos

Directory

Now is the perfect time to update your family photo in the Wesley Monumental Directory. Please email your family Christmas photos to jennifer@wesleymonumental.org.



Youth

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries

The Wesley Youth and Preteens know how to end the year right! Both our youth group (6th-12th graders) and our 4th and 5th graders enjoyed amazing Christmas parties in December.

Our 4th and 5th Graders gathered at the home of Ginny and Clay Cheshire, where they played fun games, ate pizza, and did a meaningful mission project. The students made Christmas stockings with gifts for the children at the Union Mission Magdalene House.



The youth group had their Christmas party the next Sunday at Wesley Gardens. We had a huge group gathered for dinner, Christmas games, and of course, the infamous White Elephant gift exchange. It was a blast as always.

Our students also participated in the beautiful Lessons & Carols service on December 12. The youth choir sang with the chancel choir. Two of our students - Madeleine Hall (4th grade) and Michael Cooler (7th grade) - were also readers in the service, and Parker Hunt (4th grade) did a great job singing the solo in "Once in Royal David's City."



Music

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



RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS' DONA NOBIS PACEM

Saturday, May 14, 2022 7:30 P.M.

Wesley Monumental Choir with 42-piece Orchestra

Dr. Monica Dekle, conductor

Alysa Smith, soprano Nicholas Davis, baritone

Proceeds benefit Purple Heart veteran and Wesley member Ryan Davis and his wife and son, Asia and Knox.



Tickets:

www.MonumentalMusic.eventbrite.com

(912) 232-0191 monica@wesleymonumental.org

\$35 tax-deductible donation \$15 students with ID



Scan for tickets



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



4th & 5th Grade Christmas Party

Our 4th and 5th Graders gathered at the home of Ginny and Clay Cheshire, where they played fun games, ate pizza, and did a meaningful mission project. The students made Christmas stockings with gifts for the children at the Union Mission Magdalene House.

