

February  
2022

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wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



## Life at Wesley



Children's Choir presenting their  
annual Nativity Pageant.



Thank you for praying for your Prayer Partner Urban Hope and refugee children. Huge thanks to Claire, John, and Gil Watts for their legal expertise in guiding a Sudanese family joyfully to become U.S. citizens.



## From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor

912-232-0191, Ext. 216, [ben@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:ben@wesleymonumental.org)



### THE FEAST OF LOVE

Unless you are a really big NFL fan, the month of February brings to mind the feast of St. Valentine's Day, otherwise known as the Feast of Love. The Super Bowl is February 13 by the way. But saying I love football is pretty different than saying I love my wife. (If it's not, you're in trouble.) With the exception of Christmas and Easter, which you could argue are the definition of love ("For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son"), St. Valentine's Day should be one of the highest holy days in the church. The Christian faith is all about loving God and loving our neighbor. It's just that we throw the word love around in a lot of different ways. The original language in the Bible is a little more specific. In Hebrew Scripture, the word most often used is "hesed," translated as steadfast love. Love and faithfulness go hand in hand. In the New Testament we find the words "eros" (physical desire), "philia" (brotherly love or the love of friends), and "agape" (unconditional, sacrificial love).

For Jesus, love is more than an emotion or a feeling. To love one's enemies certainly must transcend feeling. While Jesus embodies love, and Paul has the most famous writing on love in the New Testament (I Corinthians 13), I John probably talks more about love than any other book. This would be a good month to read that letter for our devotional time. *"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action....God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.... Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers and sisters are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.....".* His message is clear, love is embodied in how we treat one another.

As Methodist our Wesleyan theology of grace is centered in the love of God in Christ and the call to love one another. At Wesley we seek to model and share the love of God in Christ in everything we do. In the love we pour into our children. In the love we offer to the homeless and refugees. In the love we extend in hospitality to all people. In the love we show to God in worship. In the love that holds us together in our diversity. You may remember the little Methodist motto, "In essential unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity/love." We believe the journey or process of salvation is being perfected in love. We hope you will join us as we continue to learn how to love together. Happy St. Valentine's Day.



## Congregational Life

Jennifer Thompson, Congregational Care

912-232-0191, Ext. 202, [jennifert@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifert@wesleymonumental.org)



### Merry Makers February Event ~ Valentines at Wesley Gardens

Come celebrate the day of love! Take in God's show of beautiful camellias at the Gardens, enjoy a festive Valentine's Day lunch prepared by Suzanna, and be treated to an extra-special program by Wesley's own Grace Grund. We are calling it our *Wesley Gardens "Varie-Tea" Show!* Did you know that tea is the second most consumed beverage in the world.....and there are 6 types of tea? Grace is a tea aficionada who owned her own tea shop in Montclair, New Jersey called Terra Tea Salon and Fair Trade Eco Market before moving to Savannah. She will teach us about tea, its history, and will provide an official

tea tasting. Please let Daphne or Jennifer Thompson know if you will be attending by Friday, February 11. You can call the church office or email Jennifer Thompson at [jennifert@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifert@wesleymonumental.org) or text her at 229-726-7735.





## Children's Ministry

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

## Parables of Jesus

Last fall our elementary Sunday School children studied the parables Jesus taught while He lived on the earth. On our review Sundays, the children became the teachers and chose a favorite parable to teach to the class.



Now we are studying the miracles of Jesus. Come and join the fun!

### Parable Matching Game

See if you can match the picture of the art activity we did in Sunday School with the name of the parable.

The Lost Sheep

The Ten Bridesmaids

The Mustard Seed

The Good Shepherd

The Pearl of Greatest Price

The Great Banquet

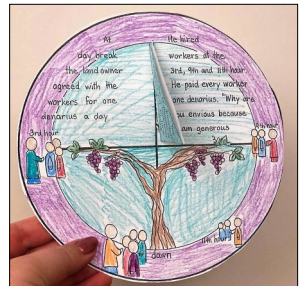
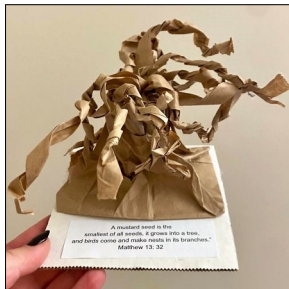
The Prodigal Son

The Sower

The Vineyard Workers

The Unforgiving Debtor

The Parable of the Talents





## Evangelism

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach & New Members  
912-234-9245, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net)

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined Wesley during December. Our February New Member Course will be February 13 and 20 at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays; class will join as a group on February 20. Please call the Church Office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



### Michele & Dr. Jim Bazemore

Michele and Jim were married in May, and they found in Wesley a church with strong preaching and traditional worship. Jim is a physician specializing in nephrology. He and Michele were drawn to

Wesley by Ben Martin's sermons.

*Shepherds: Cindy and Dr. Aaron Pederson and Byron, Waylon, and Edie Pederson*

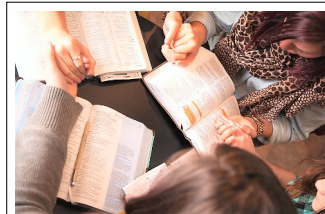


### Cynthia & Jim Waldrop

Cynthia and Jim live in Midway, Georgia. Already Jim has helped haul furniture for needy refugee families in his truck and trailer with the church's Y'All Haul ministry. They like Wesley's uplifting music and

especially the Chancel Choir.

*Shepherds: Grace and Art Greene*



### Young Mothers' Bible Study

- Meets Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. in Oliver Hall, Room 310 & via Zoom
- Bible Buddies for children also meets in Oliver Hall, Room 308
- New Topic for Spring 2022: Christian Marriage
- Sign up with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Project: Saturday, February 12



#### Love Walk for Wesley Community Center

Saturday, February 12, 8:00 a.m. program, 9:00 a.m. walk, please meet at Wesley Community Center, 1601 Drayton Street.

Please sign up in advance with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, and fill out a sponsorship form (available in Church Office or from Nelle). All are welcome. Stroll the Historic District to support children in need served by Wesley Community Center.

#### Refugee Ministry

The Missions Committee and the Refugee Ministry volunteers have been busy as we walk along with a newly resettled Afghani family. We are committed to a long-term relationship with this wonderful family. Thus far members of our congregation have welcomed the family by providing groceries, donating furniture/household items for their apartment (thank you, Y'all Haul volunteers!!!), transporting and guiding them through their first well checks at Curtis Cooper (thank you First Friends volunteers!). We are continuing to pray for this family of nine as the adults take English classes, the children get enrolled in school, and as they look for jobs. If you have any leads on potential jobs or would like to become more involved, please contact hollymccormick@hotmail.com.



#### Construction Ministry

The next phase of our construction of Family Promise transitional housing for situationally homeless families has begun. Working with Isle of Hope and Trinity UMC, plus other congregations, Wesley will be renovating one home at 225, and constructing a new house at 220 Cummings Street. We are currently doing soffit work and replacing the roof on the renovation. The foundation is being installed for the new construction. Through the spring we will need volunteers for everything from framing, sheet rock, installing trim and painting. SCAD Serve is partnering with Family Promise to design great outdoor spaces for the families. If you want to be involved, check the bulletin or call Woody Brown or Nick Hitt to get on the schedule or tell Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

#### Mayfield UMC and Kentucky Tornado

Due to the generosity of the congregation, nearly \$8,000 was given for the annual Christmas offering. Much of these, and other funds will be made available directly to Mayfield UMC for immediate support to those working to rebuild. We have a direct connection through Corie Turley, a church member. The Missions Committee is also putting together a fall 2022 construction mission trip to the Mayfield area to aid in construction after initial clean up is completed. If you would be interested in this trip, email Missions Chair Scott Cleaveland at msctclv@gmail.com.



Exposed organ pipes.

(Photo: Courtesy of Mayfield First UMC Facebook page)



Thank you, Prayer Partners Bonnie Montgomery and Evonne Mobley, for the wonderful coats for your Prayer Partners from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The children were so excited to receive their coats!





## Youth

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



Just a few weeks ago, my family and I took down our Christmas decorations. I like it when the feeling of Christmas stays with me for a little while. The Christian year is marked by two huge events - Christmas and Easter - commemorating the birth and death of Jesus, respectively. Advent and Lent are both seasons of preparation for these times. It is of utmost importance to remember the birth and death of Jesus, but we must also not forget the life and teachings of Jesus. That's what we're focusing on in youth Sunday school and youth group over the next few months. Our students will be reading the Gospel of Matthew and studying passages from it on Sunday nights at youth group. We're also looking at the life of Jesus in Sunday school, and, through a video study, getting a look at some places in Holy Land where Jesus walked. And that's what I hope this all helps us do, walk with Jesus.

It's going to be a great year in the Wesley youth ministry - Ski Trip, St. Patrick's Day, Confirmation, Summer mission opportunities - but, in all of it, I pray we never lose sight of our goal of walking with Jesus.



## Prayer

### *The Transfiguration: "Listen to Him"*



The Alpha/Fellowship class Sunday School lesson on January 16 was on the Transfiguration, Mark 9:7, "Then a cloud overshadowed them and a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is my son whom I love, Listen to Him." Our student book, written by Gary Thompson says "...the same is true for us. In order to live the way God wants us to live and do what God wants us to do, we must spend time in prayer and seek Him and understand God's directions."

You are invited to spend 30 peaceful minutes on Wednesdays from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Oliver Hall Parlor with Ben Martin and others to get still and learn to listen. -Sue Ellis, Committee Chair



## Jane Shirah Circle

### February Meeting

The Jane Shirah Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. on February 23 at the home of Camille O'Neill, 15 Chatuachee Crossing, Savannah.



## Additional Announcements



### Access ACS and Church Life App

Need help locating a church member's phone number or need to know your remaining pledge balance for the year? Access ACS, our church management software, can help with both.

#### With Access ACS, you can...

- Access the Online Directory
- Update your contact information including photo
- View your Pledge and Giving History for the year

To begin, visit wesleymonumental.org, then click on "Member Login or Member Directory"

#### With the ChurchLife App, you can...

- Access the Online Directory

To begin, download the app on your phone, then login with the same username and password you use for Access ACS.

Confused? Need help creating an account or resetting your password? Email or call Jennifer Brookins in the Church Office and she will be happy to help, jennifer@wesleymonumental.org or 912-232-0191.





## Music

Monica Dekle, Director of Music & Organist  
912-232-0191 Ext. 213, [monica@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:monica@wesleymonumental.org)

# *Lessons and Carols 2021*



Camille O'Neill recites the seventh lesson



Faithful Choral Scholars



Claire Watts, mezzo-soprano







## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



**Caroling with the Choir**  
 Wesley Choir carols to church members receiving communion.