

March
2023

Volume 72 Issue 3
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wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Wednesday evening music class.



Following their tour of SCAD, the Merry Makers enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Gryphon.



Thank you to all members who did major yard work for an elderly widow.



Y'All Haul led by church members delivered furniture for a Family Promise formerly homeless pair of families.



Over the weekend of February 2-5, the youth group enjoyed a ski retreat in West Virginia.



Wesley Mission Team helping in Honduras.



From Ben's Desk

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

March: A Long Month of Lent

You may know the old saying about March, "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb." It is referring to the blustery winds of March, but this saying seems to have some Christian parallels to me. March finds us plowing through the heavy days of Lent. This is the season of self-examination and penitence, of fasting and journeying with Jesus down the dark stormy road towards the cross. The Lion and the Lamb are also Biblical metaphors for Jesus. Jesus the lion of Judah, the fearsome one before whom we bow in repentant fear. Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The gentle and humble one who laid down his life for us.

Lent, of course, leads to the cross and resurrection. The Lion becomes the Lamb. Lent is a season we should not ignore. We need intentional time to pray and fast, to ask God to search our hearts, show us our sin, and prepare us to receive the gift of grace coming in the cross. But, remember, Lent is forty days not counting Sundays. Every Sunday we celebrate in worship a little Easter, resurrection hope. Join us for the joyful Sundays of Lent, but don't forget the somber days in between. Let Christ come in like a lion and attack sin in our lives, but then let him go out like a lamb to take our sin upon himself on the cross.



Enrichment Classes and Parents' Night Out

Hosted by Wesley Monumental UMC

Saturdays: March 25 and April 22

March 25 Marriage Education Class

Led by Julie Roberts

**April 22 Mental Health Concerns
with Children**

Led by Amanda Baskin

Class meets from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

Following the class, parents will enjoy
an evening out from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Childcare available with child-friendly
supper provided for birth - 5th grade.

Additional details and ways to sign up will be
available in the Sunday bulletin.



Prayer Committee



Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray..."

The words of the Baptismal Covenant are not new to me. I have said and repeated them many times. However, the last time I did, the words jumped off the pages. I had never really noticed them, especially when it says "that he/she may grow into a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ who walks in the way that leads to life!" Suddenly those words were so comforting, reassuring, and powerful! The real secret in life is walking with Jesus. He really is "the way, the truth and the life." Without Him, the journey is on the wrong path! Praying is an essential way to know the road that leads to life.

We invite you to come pray with us each Wednesday from 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. in the parlor of Oliver Hall. Your church family needs you.

-Sue Ellis, Committee Chair



Youth

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

Over the weekend of February 2-5, the youth group enjoyed a ski retreat in West Virginia. This year, we skied at Winterplace and stayed at the Resort at Glade Springs. Our students loved skiing and snow tubing on Friday and Saturday. Several first-time skiers took to it very quickly, and everyone had a great time on the slopes. The students also enjoyed the basketball court and indoor pool at the resort. Special thanks to Robin Canady for preparing our food, and to adult volunteers, Sheila and Skip Watts, Adria Wilkes, Stephanie Hess, Katherine Grimmett, and Susan Shinall!





Children's Ministry

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



Sunday morning fun!



Joyful Noise choir rehearsing for the Children of the Light concert on February 26!

Many thanks to our faithful Joyful Noise leaders and helpers: Miang Chow, Ella Hayes, Deborah Roberds, Shirley Roberts, Aleyse Scarborough, and Meaghan Wylie. Many thanks also to our nursery ladies who come and help with dinner and playground time: Sophie Hibdon, Caitlin Kelly, Grace Lindstrom, Greta May, Megan Simpson, and Carli Stevens.



2023-2024 School Year Registration & Notes from Eli's Place Parents

At Eli's Place we are beginning to register children for the 2023-2024 school year. The preferred enrollment period for members of Wesley Monumental is open until February 28. Please read over the notes from parents, that are below, and consider choosing our preschool for your child. Passing the information on to friends and family members is a great way to introduce them to Wesley and our church family.

Note from Logan Pollak

My husband and I have five children and four of them have been fortunate enough to be part of the Eli's Place family at Wesley Monumental. Three have attended the Pre-K program and the youngest will follow suit in a few years. I always say that Pre-K at Eli's Place is the best deal in town! The instruction and guidance our children have received set them up for success and they have entered Kindergarten at Savannah Country Day armed with the knowledge and confidence needed to thrive. We couldn't be happier with the curriculum and team of teachers at Eli's Place, and we feel incredibly blessed to have our children in their hands.

Note from Tessa Jones

Eli's Place has been home to our son and daughter since they were six months old. Our family is forever grateful for the support and love provided within the walls of Wesley Monumental. Our son is currently enrolled in the Pre-K program, and our daughter graduated from Eli's Pre-K in 2020. Through the excellent instruction and encouragement of the Eli's Pre-K teachers and administration, both of our children have excelled in their learning and grown in their relationship with the Lord.



Evangelism

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



Amanda Cannon

It was powerful to see Amanda's baptism by Ben Martin on the Sunday she joined. She and her husband, Anthony Cannon, moved to Savannah, and Amanda has worked at Walmart for the past 13 years and just received a promotion.

Shepherd: Evonne Mobley



Tyler Cobbs

Tyler grew up in Flowery Branch, Georgia. He is a graphic designer with his own business, and he gave his talents to create the posters with the pipe organ for the children's choir concert with a full orchestra. Tyler also is working on his master's degree online in psychology and counseling.

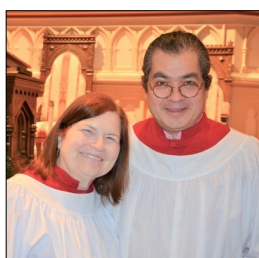
Shepherds: Deanne and Ken Rimes



Lauren and Merritt Dixon, V (Quint) with sons, Merritt, VI, and Dyer Dixon

Lauren is from Gainesville, Georgia, and Quint grew up in Savannah. Already their older son, Merritt, is in the Joyful Noise children's choir. Quint went to Saint Andrew's School. He works for Dixon Properties.

Shepherds: Mackenzie and John Kingston, Jr.



Glen Doki and Dr. Penelope Hendrix

Glen and Penelope are engaged to be married, and they made the brown donkey costume for the elementary children's Nativity pageant! A photo of them is on the Scoggins family's refrigerator, because young Abbott Scoggins so loved wearing this new costume! Penelope is a retired dentist, and she and Glen already both sing in the Chancel Choir. Her daughter lives in Richmond Hill.

Shepherds: Bren and Chet Kos

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined the church in January. Our next New Member Class will be Sundays, March 19 and 26, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays, with the class joining as a group on March 26. Call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



Anne and Carl Eller

The Ellers have three children, and their daughter, Alexandra, is a vocal performance major at Kennesaw State University and has sung a solo at Wesley. Anne is a classically trained ballerina. Already she and Carl have

greatly helped with the grocery ministry to Old Savannah City Mission.

Shepherd: Nelle Bordeaux



Amanda (Mandy) McWaters

Mandy is a senior underwriter and just moved into a new home. She is excited to help with the church's construction ministry and also Family Mission Project to landscape the Tiny Houses.

Shepherd: Jo Anne Garcia-Melendez



Laura and L.B. Watkins, IV, with son, James Watkins

L.B. and his shepherd, Johnny Smith, have been best friends since they were boys growing up together in Statesboro. Laura is a Spanish teacher at Savannah Christian Preparatory School. Their 16-month-old son, James, will be baptized this month.

*Shepherds: Kendra and Johnny Smith
James's shepherd: Jay Smith*

Spring Tea Honoring New Members and Shepherds

Saturday, March 4
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Home of Staci, Chris,
and Anne Chaddock Donegan

Please sign up in advance with Nelle,
tbordeaux@prodigy.net, or call the
church office, 912-232-0191,
by March 1.





Missions

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

Wesley's Mission Team to Honduras A Report from the Mission Field

This report is written in both past and future tense due the newsletter's timing. On Saturday, February 11, Mission on the Move partnered our mission team with the Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica in the Bordo slums of San Pedro de Sula. Thanks to supplies funded by the Susanna Wesley UMW Circle bingo night, the team was able to offer a Bible camp for the children in the community. The team shared the parable of the lost sheep through music, crafts, and storytelling. This neighborhood of small hand-built homes runs along the edge of a river through town. Consistent nutrition, public utilities, and education are a struggle. Food giveaways and health clinics also run out of this church. That afternoon we traveled into the mountains to the town of Santa Elena, our base of operations for the week.



On Sunday, February 12, the team visited the village of Belen to worship with a new UMC church plant and to see the community of homes built by Central American Ministries, El Camino Ministries. Our team will be building the same \$1500 clap board houses over the week in Santa Elena. It was a powerful worship service, and we saw the transformation of this community.



For the balance of the week, the Wesley team efforts will be supporting the programming of Mission on the Move's Oaks of Righteousness. We will be painting the community center, funded by Wesley for disabled kids, operated by Mission on the Move in Santa Elena.

The Mission Team will be sharing more information from this week of service over Lent. Seek out Pat and Sharlene Monahan, Skip and Sheila Watts, Newman and Malinda Smith, Rusty Holt, Jake Coakley, or Scott Cleaveland to hear about their experiences. Thank you for the prayers and support of the congregation.



Family Mission Project

Sunday, March 12, 12:15 p.m. Come help landscape the Tiny Houses for homeless veterans! All ages welcome. Please sign up in advance, as we'll have lunch in the Fellowship Hall and then change clothes to go work at the Tiny Houses, 75 Dundee Street. Please bring a rake, shovel, post-hole digger, and a change of clothes. We'll plant bushes and spread gravel. Sign up by March 9, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Memorials & Honors

March 2023

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

The Endowment Fund

In memory of
Lee Butler
From
Malcolm & Julia Butler
Dan & Judy Bradley
J.C. Lewis
Mrs. John M. Saylor
Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Pressly
Chuck & Ann Seyle
Beverly & Allan Reynolds

The Endowment Fund Cont.

In memory of
Mildred Wallace
From
Mr. & Mrs. Gardelle Lewis
Dan & Judy Bradley



The Pastors Discretionary Fund

In memory of
Gloria Parker
From The Jane Shirah Circle

Monumental Music

In memory of
Nancy Birkheimer
Walton Carroll Jr.
Cecil Abarr
From Andy & Janet Thompson



Wesley Gardens Retreat

Micah Sprunger, Retreat Director
912-441-7578, micah@wesleygardensretreat.com



"Solitude well practiced will break the power of busyness, haste, isolation, and loneliness. You will see that the world is not on your shoulders after all. You will find yourself, and God will find you in new ways." - Dallas Willard



New Sunday School

If you are a younger adult and not part of a Sunday School class, be on the lookout for more information about Wesley's new Young Adult Sunday School Class that will be starting Sunday, March 26!



Congregational Life

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

March Merry Makers

Come join us at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, March 13 to hear Ken Rimes tell us about his unique adventure with the Sons of Jubal Men's Chorus and their performance in the Pyongyang Concert Hall in North Korea. Ken will tell us about their experiences and show us pictures of North Korea. Suzanna will have a yummy lunch for us as well! Please contact Jennifer Baker in the church office at bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or 912-232-0191, or email Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org by Friday, March 10 to make reservations. The cost for lunch is \$7.



Dutch Treat

Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Wiley's Championship BBQ (4700 Highway 80 East, Savannah) on Thursday, March 30 for our monthly Dutch Treat. Please contact Jennifer Baker in the church office at bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or 912-232-0191, or email Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org by Tuesday, March 28 to make reservations.

April Merry Makers

Our resident artist, Ivan Chow, will be our speaker at our April Merry Makers. Ivan will share with us about his love for art, show us some of his exhibits, offer us a demonstration, and talk about what he has been doing to prepare for retirement. The program will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 10, and lunch will follow. Contact Jennifer Baker in the church office at bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or email Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org by Friday, April 7 to make reservations. Cost \$7.

Fourth Friday Retreat - March 24

Join chapel at 9:00 a.m. for some time of guided retreat and solitude. In addition to group prayer and *Lectio Divina* (meditation on Holy Scripture), this liturgically-based retreat will feature teaching and discussion. Coffee and tea is provided at the Memory Garden gazebo at 8:45 a.m. The retreat is 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with the remainder of the afternoon available for personal retreat. Please bring your own lunch. For questions and further details email hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.

Bible Study

No Bible study for March.

Commemorative Live Oaks

For those seeking to commemorate a memory or loved one on the Grounds at Wesley Gardens, Commemorative Live Oaks with plaques and engraved teak benches are available. Please email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com for pricing and further info.



Jane Shirah

The Jane Shirah Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22. Location will be announced.

Calling all Merry Makers! March & April Merry Makers events are listed below.



Music

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



As I write this, Wesley Monumental's choristers are preparing for the magnificent Children of the Light concert on February 26. We are so proud of them and their parents. We look forward to sharing photos with you next month! Thank you orchestra sponsors for making this event possible for the students.

Thank you 1st through 12th grade music teachers:

Lee Green, Ash Grimmett, Kim Grimmett, Anne Hawks, JoAnna Hayes, Raymond Patricio, Ken Rimes, Carolyn Roth, Sheila Watts, Skip Watts, and Julia Flowers.

 **Wesley**
MONUMENTAL
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Messenger Monthly

Eli's Place Sharing the Love Program

