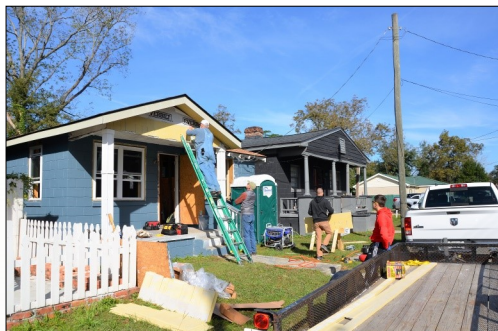


THE
**MONUMENTAL
MESSENGER**



Life at Wesley



Construction Ministry installation of windows for Family Promise homes located on Cumming Street



Youth Choir at Mellow Mushroom



Thanksgiving turkeys for Urban Hope families



Youth Christmas Party



Jimmy Flowers helps deliver 160 hams to Fellowship of Love Community Church. The hams were donated by the Missions Committee.



Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration





From Ben's Desk

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

Happy New Year



When I was growing up, the year 2000 seemed futuristic. Maybe it was because of Stanley Kubrick's epic science fiction film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, or maybe it was because I knew I would turn 40 in 2000, which felt "old" when I was a kid. But now, 23 years later, 2000 is a distant memory. Now I find myself wanting to slow time down—but it keeps gathering momentum and moving faster and faster. "They" say the older we get the faster time speeds by, though it is really our perception or experience of time that changes. I read about a scientific explanation for this phenomenon. The writer suggested people (like me) who enjoy routine experience time going faster. One way to make our experience slow down is to do something "out of the ordinary" or more memorable each day. Lately, I've been wondering if this can be a kind of spiritual discipline. Jesus talked about living in the present moment, not worrying too much about tomorrow and letting go of yesterday. And that is all good and true. But, I think I'm going to start praying each morning for God to show me something good to do that day, something that would make it more memorable instead of just going through motions and checking off boxes. After all, the second rule of Methodism is, "Do all the good you can for all the people you can at the times you can, in all the ways you can, for as long as you can." (The first rule is, "Do no harm!") Maybe doing something good each day will make the time more memorable, and I'll pay attention a little more. Many of us will make "New Year's resolutions," so this year, I'm suggesting we resolve to make the most of each day—not by squeezing more stuff into less time, but in doing a little something good for someone each day.

New Year, New Wednesday Night Bible Studies for Adults - Begins January 11

Philippians Study - led by Ben Martin

Ben will be teaching a class on Paul's letter to the Philippians. No book, just bring your Bible.

"Live Your Truth and Other Lies..." Study - led by Jennifer Thompson

"We've all seen the memes that populate the internet: *live your truth, follow your heart, you only have one life to live*. They sound nice and positive. But, what if these slogans are actually lies that unhinge us from reality and leave us anxious and exhausted?" Using the book *Live Your Truth and Other Lies: Exposing Popular Deceptions That Make Us Anxious, Exhausted and Self-Obsessed* by Alisa Childers, this discussion-based study will unpack many such popular statements, explore what the Bible has to say about them, and empower us to live the way God created us to live. If you plan to attend this study, please contact Jennifer Thompson at jennifert@wesleymonumental.org and let her know that you will need a book.

New Enneagram Study - led by James P. Owens

The current Wednesday Night Enneagram study, led by James P. Owens, will continue to meet when Wednesday Night Suppers resume in January. The class will be reading "The Path Between Us" by Suzanne Stabile with the topic, "Enneagram and Healthy Relationships." If you are interested in the topic, James and the class would love for you to join them, even if you did not attend the fall class or have much knowledge about the Enneagram.



Prayer

"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in the book." Revelation 22:7



One of my grandsons, Hunter Scott, is a Georgia Tech graduate in electrical engineering and computer science. He has written a book entitled *Designing Electronics That Work*. The book is way over my head, but there is one thing I thought was very interesting. It basically says that if you have a good, a very good product, or idea to sell and you give a poor presentation, no one buys it. But, if you have a not so good product or idea and give a terrific presentation, many buy into it. This makes me think of how this applies to some of today's ideas. Call it the power of persuasion or just good presentation. The Bible is the truth and will be forever. It just depends on how and who is presenting the words in it. It is a new year and a great time to read and study the Holy Bible on a daily basis for yourself to see just what it says. You are invited to join us for prayer on Wednesday nights in the parlor, 4:45-5:15 p.m. - Sue Ellis, Chair Prayer Committee



Children's Ministry

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

Our Jesse Tree

For the last three years our children have been making ornaments for 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 name comes from Jesse who was the Father of King David. A prophecy from the book of Isaiah tells us, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD." Isaiah 11: 1-3.



We believe that Jesus is the Branch and the fulfillment of this prophecy. 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. The ornaments give us an opportunity to review the stories and create a symbol that is a visual reminder of the story. Our Jesse Tree is on the right front side of the Sanctuary. Be sure to look at the ornaments and see which stories you remember.



November and December Festivities!



Thanksgiving Program and Pie Party



Teachers and staff enjoying their annual Christmas luncheon



Pajamas and Popcorn Day





Evangelism

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

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined the church during November. The next New Member Course will be Sundays, January 22 and 29, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays, with the class joining as a group on January 29. Nursery provided. Please sign up, 912-232-0191.



Summer & Stephen Burgstiner with children, Cody, Ella, & Banks

Summer and Stephen were married at Wesley and now have three children, Cody, who was confirmed at Wesley, and Ella, in the current Confirmation Class, and baby Banks. Gail Rountree, one of their shepherds, is close friends with Summer's mother, Pam. The Burgstiners like the strong children's ministry. Already they are in the Compass Sunday School Class.
Shepherds: Gail and Mickey Rountree



Xada Baxter & Bobby Kutchey, III, with children, Walt & Meris Baxter

Xada and her husband, Bobby, an attorney, are expecting a baby in January. Already Walt and Meris, both of whom are Hancock students, are active in the Children's Choir. They like the traditional worship of Wesley.
Shepherds: Anne Tyree and Maggie and Jason Sorel Children's Shepherd: Reese Sorel



Andrew Wall

Andrew likes the traditional worship and sacred music of Wesley. He is married to lifelong Wesley member, Suzette Parker, daughter of the late Gloria and Carlton Parker. Andrew grew up in Australia, where he was raised in the Church of England tradition.
Shepherd: Chris Donegan



Alex Whiddon & Brad Wilborn & daughter, Aila Sloane Wilborn

Alex is a psychiatric nurse practitioner from Tallahassee, and her husband, Brad, is a construction professional from Atlanta. Their daughter is in pre-kindergarten at Hancock. On Alex's side of the family, they are descendants of the Espy family, owners of the former Espy House, now Oliver Hall. Aila Sloane, age 5, is named for Carl Espy's grandmother, Elizabeth Sloane Espy, and for Aila Perkins Espy. They love the traditional worship and strong preaching of Wesley.
*Shepherds: Jessica and Wesley Oliff
Sloane's shepherds: Archer and Jennings Oliff*



Congregational Life

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

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Merry Makers January Event

All of us know that SCAD is a part of the fabric of Savannah. Katie Holderness, executive director of SCAD's new initiative, Friends of SCAD, will be our speaker for Merry Makers on January 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. She will share with us how SCAD continues to work toward connecting with the community and its plans for future ways to contribute to the city of Savannah. Katie often attends Wesley with her sister who is a Wesley member. Please email Jennifer Baker by noon on Friday, January 6 at bakerj@wesleymonumental.org or contact Jennifer Thompson to RSVP.

Tour and Lunch on SCAD

On Wednesday, January 18, meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to jump on the SCAD bus and travel a few blocks where we will experience the interactive SCADstory, tour SCAD properties, and eat lunch together! There is limited availability for this outing. Please contact Jennifer Thompson directly by email (jennifert@wesleymonumental.org) or by text. This is a first come, first serve event and will involve standing and walking. We will return to the church around noon. If we have more than 30 people interested, we will schedule a second tour in February.



Missions

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

Mission trip to Santa Elena, Honduras Serving with Mission on the Move & Camino Ministries February 10-17, 2023



Sharlene and Pat Monahan will be leading this return trip to Santa Elena, Honduras. With Mission on the Move, we will be working with their new community center, which Wesley helped fund, that is serving disabled children of the community. (missiononthemove.org) We will also be working with Camino Ministries who are building \$1500 homes for low income Hondurans. (caminohonduras.com) This work is led by a United Methodist pastor who is also planting new churches in the area. Our week will involve serving and encouraging children,



maintenance work at their school, constructing low cost family housing and sharing in Christian fellowship, worship and study. All skill levels are needed - a servant's heart is most important. We will be staying at a lovely lakeside inn utilized by MOM, with private rooms that are safe, secure, comfortable and very sanitary. We have a team of seven signed up so far. No Spanish required - Sharlene, along with Sheila and Skip Watts will serve as our translators. If you would like to join the team, we will be buying our plane tickets through Delta soon. The cost for tickets is around \$700. If you have questions and are interested in joining the team, please call our missions chair, Scott Cleaveland at 912-598-8278 or email at msctclv@gmail.com. This can be a life-changing experience.



Memorials & Honors

January 2023

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

The Endowment Fund

In memory of
Cecil Abarr
From
Lawrence & Deborah Hodges
Becky Cheatham
Ron & Tiffany Kolat & Family
Carl Pedigo & Kathy Horne
Carol Fisher

In memory of
Doris & Marshall Spruill
Montyne Medders
From
Susan Ganas

In memory of
Gloria Parker
From
Lynda G. Beam
Annelle McDuffee

The Music Endowment Fund

In honor of
Charli Weeks
From
JoAnne
Garcia-Melendez

In memory of
Joyce Cole
Les Wilkes
Grover Bell
Joel Williams
Jane McClain
From
Honey Ryan

In memory of
Waldo Bradley
Joe Ryan
Ken McDuffee
From
Susan & Dick Wallace

The Music Endowment Fund (cont.)

In honor of
Sallie & Lulie Beckwith
From Kevin Beckwith

In memory of
Ellene Anderson
From
Gail & Mickey Rountree
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Thompson
Susan & Dick Wallace
Honey Ryan

In memory of
Phil Truluck
From
Madge & Joe Edwards
Susan & Dick Wallace

In memory of
Cecil Abarr
From
Madge & Joe Edwards
JoAnne Garcia-Melendez
Susan & Dick Wallace

The Music Endowment Fund (cont.)

In memory of
Craig Hanson
From
John & Claire Watts
Kara Mobley
Susan Ganas
Gretchen & Raymond Patricio
Bonnie & Peter Delters
Don Riddle & Carolyn Roth
Gail & Mickey Rountree
Catie & Brad Aiken
Dale & Karen Kilhefner
Ash & Kim Grimmett
Emily Davis
Karen Nickles
Anne Hawks
Monica Bailey
Bruce & Sarah Spradley
Derek Llamas
Adam & Stephanie Hess
Robbie & Sander Hollander
Cathy Spriull
Skip & Sheila Watts
Kim & John Pitcher
Susan & Dick Wallace



Wesley Gardens Retreat

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

Bible Study: Tuesdays, January 10 and 31

Join us for the spiritual discipline of Bible study. An in-depth class presented by Bible scholar and ESV commentator Dr. Scott Hafemann. This winter we will continue looking closely at “Peter, the Preacher” by examining his speeches in the book of Acts. Join us Tuesdays, January 10 and 31 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Main House. Contact hello@wesleygardensretreat.com for details.

Fourth Friday Retreat

For January the “Fourth Friday” retreat has been moved to the third Friday, January 20. Join us in the chapel for some time of guided retreat and solitude. In addition to group prayer and *Lectio Divina* (meditation on Holy Scripture), the retreat will feature teaching and discussion. Coffee is provided at 8:45 a.m. The retreat is from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please bring your own lunch. For questions and further details, email hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.

Commemorative Live Oaks & Benches

Looking to make a lasting contribution to Wesley Gardens Retreat or honor a special person or occasion?

Memorial live oak trees and teak benches along with custom plaques and engravings are available.

All donations are tax deductible.

For details, please email, micah@wesleygardensretreat.com



Jane Shirah Circle

The Jane Shirah Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25. Location will be announced.



Family Bingo Night



Family Bingo Night - January 20

Join us Friday, January 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for our 2nd annual Family Bingo Night presented by the Susanna Wesley Circle. There will be dinner, dessert, bingo, and exciting prizes with proceeds benefitting charities within our community. Scan the code for additional details including pricing, ways to pay, and to register. Also, if you would like to donate a prize, or maybe a gift card you received for Christmas that you may not have use for, please email swcirclewm@gmail.com.



Evangelism Cont.

Be a Mentor for a Young Mother

Mentors sought to meet at your convenience every other month with a young mother for Christian encouragement. Questions or to sign up, email Nelle Bordeaux, tbordeaux@prodigy.net or call 912-234-9245.





Music

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

Join us as 130 children and youth choristers combine forces with a 33-piece orchestra for an unforgettable evening.

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT
AN EVENING OF HYMNS & HERITAGE

Benefiting the Building Fund for Children's and Music Ministries

Feb. 26, 2023 | 5-6 p.m.
Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church
Children & Youth Choirs With Full Orchestra

Get your tickets at www.MonumentalMusic.eventbrite.com!

Joyful Noise and Children's Choir resume Wednesday, January 11.

Youth Choir resumes Sunday, January 8.



Youth

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

From November 18-20, twenty-five Wesley Monumental students (6th-12th grades) and four adult leaders traveled to beautiful Epworth by the Sea for the Encounter Retreat. We were joined by around 300 students from all over South Georgia for a great weekend of worship, fellowship, and fun! The Wesley youth had a great time singing, playing, and listening to speaker Evan DeYoung's funny stories. They had a lot of fun and also engaged deeply with God over the weekend. We learned about Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God." Thanks to adult chaperones Skip and Sheila Watts and Donna Hart for helping to make this a great retreat for our students.



 **WESLEY**
MONUMENTAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
429 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

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Messenger Monthly



Encounter Retreat

