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wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



## Life at Wesley



A surprise Bluegrass Bash was held at Wesley Gardens Retreat on Sunday, June 11 in recognition of Rev. Ben Martin's 10 years of leadership at Wesley Monumental.



Bluegrass musicians and the Chancel Choir serenaded us with tunes right out of Rev. Martin's favorite movie, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*





## From Ben's Desk

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

## *A Decade Together*



In most relationships ten years is a major milestone. It's long enough that "a lot of water has gone under the bridge" so to speak. For an itinerant United Methodist pastor, ten years is more of the exception than the rule. When I was growing up we always knew four years was the limit on the stay of our pastor. I even heard a few older pastors say, "I stayed a fifth year once and it was a mistake." Well, we just finished ten years together as pastor and church, and I'm thankful I haven't worn out my welcome quite yet. Every church and every pastor begins their life together



with a nervous uncertainty about whether or not this "arranged marriage" will be a good fit. Either ours has been or y'all have just been patient and gracious.



It is hard to express to you what it means to be allowed to be a part of your lives and the life of your church family. To be invited to walk along with you through life by faith, to baptize your babies, confirm your youth, officiate at your weddings, bury your loved ones, and share in your joys and sorrows, is an honor I don't take lightly. Not to mention, you've patiently listened to me preach five hundred plus sermons, and 2000 or so Bible studies and Sunday school classes. I am sure there is nothing you hear me say these days that I haven't said before, in one way or another, so hopefully your memory is as short as mine. I have said countless times over the years when I preach you simply overhear how God is working on me and, because we share a common humanity, sometimes that speaks to you. We do change, however, at least I hope we do; we call it growth. I hope by God's grace, and your patience, I have continued to grow in my love for God and all of you.



I have watched in awe as God has done and continues to do so many wonderful things through your faith, generosity, service, and hospitality. You are indeed living as the "Body of Christ" in this community. I serve alongside an incredible staff that makes me look a lot more competent than I really am. You have generously blessed Susan and I and given us a place to call home. Thank You seems not enough for me to say, but it comes from the depth of my heart. I love you all here at Wesley Monumental, and I pray we will continue this journey of faith together until God (and you) decide it will be time for a fresh voice and a new vision. Until then, I'll leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul to his beloved church at Philippi,



*"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace,....For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters."*



# Children's Ministry

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

Thank you to all who served at Vacation Bible School! It was a truly memorable week. From teenagers to senior adults, our leaders and helpers did a phenomenal job of shepherding 181 children to fun activities around the property. Special thanks to Ash Grimmett, James Hammock, Christian Swails, Thomas Bordeaux, and Jeff Miller for making the lessons about Daniel come to life; and to Penny Hendrix and Glen Doki for creating amazing costumes. It was a fantastic week and was only possible because so many people invested their time in our children.



As you look at the pictures from VBS you can see that our leaders were men and women who were seasoned church members, new church members, parents of children of all ages, grandparents, and members of our youth group. Our nursery workers have done a wonderful job filling in during Children's Worship and Sunday School but VBS made us realize the love and joy our church family has to share with the children is missing on Sunday mornings. We need your help!



On Sunday mornings there are usually 50-60 children in attendance at Children's Worship and each week we need 6-8 adults to help manage the crowd. No preparation is required. The lesson and art activities are prepared by staff during the week. On Sunday morning your responsibilities are to: shepherd the children from the Sanctuary to their classroom after the Children's Sermon, help serve snack, and help the children with their art activity. It is a fun and busy 40 minutes.

Please consider serving in our Children's Ministry. You can sign up for the weeks that fit your schedule by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0945ABAB22A2F58-sunday1> or emailing charli@wesleymonumental.org.





# Evangelism

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



**Kelsey Kicklighter Bartlett & Trey Bartlett with son, Beau Exley Bartlett**  
Kelsey and Trey live in Guyton, and Kelsey practices law with her father, Mickey Kicklighter, Jr. Trey is an engineer. Their son, Beau, turned one in June. Kelsey and Trey recently moved back to this area from Marietta, Ga.

*Shepherds: Caroline and Randon Rhodes, Jr.*  
*Beau's Shepherd: Ann Rhodes*



**Lenora & Craig Buckley with son, James Buckley**  
Craig is from Swainsboro, and Lenora is from Bellville, GA. Her mother is the sister of Dr. Joe Edwards, Jr. Craig and their son, James, practice architecture in the largest architectural firm in the state outside Atlanta, James W. Buckley Associates, named for Craig's father. James is a new alumnus of Auburn University in architecture.

*Shepherds: Madge and Dr. Joe Edwards, Jr.*



**Leah & Clay Hughes**  
Leah is from Charleston, SC, and Clay is from Greenville, SC. They are expecting their first baby on June 27. Leah is starting her own business. She and Clay like traditional worship.

*Shepherds: Alex and Whit Campbell; Baby's Shepherd: Fields Campbell*

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during May. The next New Member Course will be Sundays, July 23 and 30, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays, with the class joining as a group on Sunday, July 30. Call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



**Kim & Mickey Kicklighter, Jr.**  
Kim is the chief financial officer of her husband's law firm, and Kim also takes care of their grandson, Beau. Mickey is related by marriage to Ben Martin, and they attended Mercer University together. Mickey loves hearing Ben's sermons.

*Shepherds: Kathy Horne and Carl Pedigo*



**Jenny Parker with son, Charlie Guyer**  
Jenny is an attorney. Her son, Charlie, is age 13 and attends Garrison, where he is a visual arts major. His shepherd, Michael Cooler, looks forward to introducing Charlie to the youth fellowship.

*Shepherd: Jennifer Baker*  
*Charlie's Shepherd: Michael Cooler*



**Katy & Matt White with son, Peyton (Pate) & daughter, Mary Evelyn (Evie)**  
The White family just moved to Savannah, and Matt is still working lots in Valdosta, GA. Katy owns a tanning salon. This fall, Pate will be in sixth grade at Memorial Day School, and Evie will be in fourth grade there. They look forward to the children's ministry.

*Shepherds: Sandy and Cam Hunt*  
*Children's Shepherds: Parker and Millie Hunt*

## Refugee Children's School Uniform List 2023

Please bring white shirt and khaki pants, skirt, or jumper dress to Oliver Hall on or before July 23. Please no shorts.

Child's Name & Age	Child's Sizes	Child's Name & Age	Child's Sizes
Hasenat Andar, girl, age 11	12 large shirt; 14 pants	Alisa Yaredi, girl, age 8	8 shirt and 10 skirt
Mohammad H. Andar, boy, age 10	10-12 medium shirt and pants	Feza Yaredi, girl, age 6	8 shirt and skirt
Bibi Kawsar Andar, girl, age 6	6 shirt and 6 skirt or jumper dress	Zaina Yaredi, girl, age 11	12 shirt and 14 pants
Mohammad M. Andar, boy, age 12	16 shirt; adult small pants	Abdul Saboun, boy, age 6	7 shirt and pants
Elonga Ayikobuy, boy, age 7	6 shirt; 6 pants	Faiga Saboun, girl, age 9	12 shirt and pants
Waswa Drajoru, boy, age 17	adult medium shirt; adult 32 pants	Raheima Saboun, girl, age 10	16 shirt and pants
David Drajoru, boy, age 15	adult small shirt and pants	Sahiba Saboun, girl, age 12	ladies' medium shirt and pants
Kato Drajoru, boy, age 17	adult medium shirt and pants	Mastoura Saboun, girl, age 14	ladies' medium shirt and pants
Suzana Mwangaza, girl, age 14	20 shirt and pants	Hawaye Saboun, girl, age 17	ladies' large shirt and pants
Ivoni Remy, girl, age 11	adult small shirt and pants		



## Missions

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

## Be a Prayer Partner for an Urban Hope or Refugee Child

### Urban Hope Children's School Uniform List 2023

Please pray daily for your chosen child and provide school uniforms (please see chart for colors and sizes). Please drop off uniforms to Oliver Hall on or before Sunday, July 23. Questions? Nelle, 912-234-9245 or tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

Child's Name & Age	Child's Sizes	Child's Name & Age	Child's Sizes
Imani Banks, girl, age 12	14-16 shirt; 14-16 pants	Ta'Miyah McNab, girl, age 10	adult small navy shirt; junior 3 khaki pants
Kah'Marie Boggs, boy, age 11	18 husky hunter green shirt; 18 husky navy pants	De'Mon McPhaul, boy, age 10	10-12 shirt; 10-12 pants
Jordyn Broadie, girl, age 9	adult 2XL red shirt; 20 navy skirt or pants	Ileena McPhaul, girl, age 9	7-8 shirt; 7-8 pants
Carlos Cansler, boy, age 13	18/adult medium shirt; 18/adult medium pants	Bryson Owens, boy, age 13	adult medium shirt; 20 husky pants
Jayce Clark, boy, age 10	12-14 red shirt; 12-14 navy pants	Kevin Scott, boy, age 13	adult medium shirt; adult medium pants
Cameron Cooper, boy, age 10	12-14 hunter green shirt; 12-14 khaki pants	Grace Slaughter, girl, age 12	16-18 burgundy shirt; 16-18 khaki pants
Lee Ann Curtis, girl, age 9	10 hunter green shirt; 10 khaki skirt or pants	Zachariah Small, boy, age 12	14 red shirt; 14 navy pants
Jernise Cutter, girl, age 10	10-12 kelly green shirt; 10-12 khaki pants	Cris'shonna Smith, girl, age 11	adult large light blue shirt; 18-20 khaki pants
MaKenna Davis-Hunt, girl, age 17	adult small royal blue shirt; adult medium khaki pants	Timothy Sterling, boy, age 9	8 red shirt; 8 khaki pants
Martavious Delarge, boy, age 10	8 red shirt; 10-12 wide legs navy pants	Joseph Stevens, boy, age 12	men's medium navy shirt; 20 khaki pants
Zachary Dorsey, boy, age 13	adult medium Kelly green shirt; adult medium khaki pants	Jay'vion Stoney, boy, age 9	adult XL large hunter green shirt; 38X28 khaki pants
Ethan Flournoy, boy, age 18	adult medium shirt any color; 32X30 khaki pants	Malina Summers, girl	waiting for age and sizes
Key'Ron Gordon, boy, age 10	12-14 hunter green shirt; 12-14 khaki pants	Makailyn Terry, girl, age 11	adult large burgundy shirt; 22 junior khaki pants
Anijah Grantham, girl, age 11	adult small hunter green shirt; 16 khaki pants	Makinley Terry, girl, age 11	adult medium burgundy shirt; 7-8 junior khaki pants
Saralynn Grantham, girl, age 12	adult large hunter green shirt; 16 adult khaki pants	Camya Tukes, girl, age 11	14-16 shirt; 14 slim pants
Randell Green, boy, age 10	14 navy shirt; 14 khaki pants	Isaiah Virgil, boy, age 11	adult large teal shirt; 32X30 khaki pants
Gabrielle Henderson, girl, age 10	14 navy shirt; 14 khaki pants	Devin West, boy, age 14	adult small royal blue shirt; 28X30 khaki pants
Caden Latta, boy, age 10	18-20 shirt; 18-20 pants	Kenneth Wiggins, boy, age 13	adult small shirt; 14 slim pants
Jermaine Lovett, boy, age 7	Waiting to hear from Miss Louise, his grandmother, about sizes	Ortorio Williams, boy, age 12	12-14 orange shirt; 12-14 khaki pants
Miracle Lovett, girl, age 11	14-16 red shirt; 14-16 black or khaki pants		



# Wesley Gardens Retreat

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

## Update: Recent Sacred Journey Retreat

In late May, we were honored to host The Sacred Journey Retreat co-led by Christian Swails, a local spiritual director and friend of WMUMC! Twelve retreatants looking for a deeper connection with God learned about the needs of the soul: how to slow down, live more deeply, and practice sabbath rest. This retreat will now be offered yearly for any interested.



## No Fourth Friday Retreat This Month

We will be taking July off and starting back up the Fourth Friday of August.

## Commemorative Oaks and Benches Available

For those seeking to honor a loved one or wishing to make a lasting contribution to Wesley Gardens, commemorative Live Oaks and quality teak benches with engravings are available. For further info, please email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com.



## Memorials & Honors

July 2023

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

### The Capstone Project/Building Fund

In memory of **Doug Stutzman**

From

Melvin & Ann Croft

Adrienne Tietz

In Honor of

**Charli Weeks**

**Debra Mamalakis**

From Caroline, Randon & Ann Rhodes

In Honor of

**The Eli's place teachers**

From Pat, Mary, Teddy &

Greta Doumont

In Honor of

**Hannah & Eliza Macgregor**

From Mr. & Mrs. Paul Macgregor

### The Music Endowment Fund

In memory of **Mary Holloway**

From Linda & Ted Moore

In memory of

**Chris Rimes**

From

Linda & Ted Moore

Melvin & Ann Croft

Alan & Nancy Fountain

Cindy & Way Fountain

Connie & Lance Smith

Stewart Fountain

Brooke Smith

Avery Smith

Paul & Kim Gully

Cynthia & David Snyder

### The Music Endowment Fund Cont.

In memory of

**Alan Patricio**

From

Ken & Deanne Rimes

In Honor of

**Maxine Harper**

From

Monica, Andrew &

Remington Dekle

### Care and Share fund

In memory of

**Douglas Stutzman**

From

The Jane Shirah Circle



## Music

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

# 🎵 VBS 2023 🎵



Thanks to parents and grandparents for bringing their children to Vacation Bible School this week. Thanks to all their teachers for a terrific week of learning and fun! The children had fun learning loads of traditional hymns and classic Bible songs—in the air-conditioned chapel!



## Youth

James P. Owens, Director of Student Ministries  
912-232-0191 Ext. 209, [james@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:james@wesleymonumental.org)



The youth love serving with the children at VBS!





## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Elementary Family Group

### Vacation Bible School 2023



Early Childhood Group