

THE  
**MONUMENTAL  
MESSENGER**



# Life at Wesley



Youth Local Missions Week



Winners from the Merry Makers' "Beat the Heat Bingo"



Summer Fun Daze at Wesley Gardens Retreat



Youth having "Fun with Skip and Sheila" at Frames N Games





## From Ben's Desk

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

## *Wednesday Nights at Wesley*

September marks our return to our school year programming schedule and the beginning of our mid-week dinner, Bible studies, Children's Choirs, and youth small groups. Our plan is to resume on September 6. The weekly habit of coming to church for fellowship and study in the middle of our week bridges the gap between Sundays and keeps us grounded in the middle of the hectic pace of our lives. One of the things that characterized the early church and contributed to the growth spiritually and numerically was how often they "gathered together" for fellowship, study, and worship. They recognized discipleship was a group effort and a daily activity. If you've never been a part of the Wednesday night program, we encourage you to give it a try. The food is great, the fellowship sweet, the Word relevant, and the children and youth ministry exciting and meaningful. There is something for all ages to help strengthen our faith.



Everyone is invited to begin with our prayer time in the Oliver Hall parlor from 4:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Dinner begins each week at 5:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., Children's Choirs and youth small groups meet, and a nursery is available for our youngest children. For adults, this year, we will offer a young woman's small group and two adult studies from which to choose. Rev. James P. Owens will be teaching a Bible study in the Fellowship Hall on the book of James. I'll be teaching a book study on a book by Richard Rohr entitled, *The Universal Christ*. To sign up for our Wednesday night activities, scan the QR code or complete the insert in the August 27 or September 3 bulletins. We hope you will make Wednesday nights a part of your spiritual formation this year.



## Education Building Renovation Update

### Education Building Renovation Update from the Trustees

The design for the Education Building Renovation is well underway. The building has been laser scanned, and a 3D model and drawings have been produced from the data. Teams of Architects, engineers, and specialists have completed their evaluations. The design and first review of the new space is now underway.



## Youth

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

### Confirmation Class begins September 10!

This year's Confirmation Class will hold its first meeting on September 10 during the Sunday school hour. Confirmation is a time when our young people learn more about the Christian faith and our United Methodist heritage, and they have the opportunity to make a profession of faith and become full members of the church. Any students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or older who have not previously been confirmed are welcome! Our other fall meetings will be on October 15, November 12, and December 3, and make-up classes will be offered as needed.





# Children's Ministry

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



## Sunday School

This year we are hiking the Jesus Trail from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee and hearing the lessons Jesus taught to the crowds of people who came to hear Him. Today the children are making a 3D map of that part of Israel. Every Sunday, there are fun activities for children during Children's Worship and Sunday School. Games, skits, art projects, and more are used to engage the children in Bible lessons. Sunday school classrooms open at 9:45 a.m., and the teachers begin the lesson at 10:00 a.m.



Children attending the early service can be picked up from their classroom at 10:45 a.m. Children staying for the 11:00 service enjoy going to the Sanctuary together for the beginning of the service. After the Children's Sermon, the children go to Children's Worship and can be picked up from the Fellowship Hall at the end of the service.

Sunday School teachers are still needed for our preschool and elementary classes. Lessons and art activities are prepared by staff each week, and adults serve 2-3 times a month. Call or email Charli if you feel God is calling you to this important work.



## Wednesday Nights!

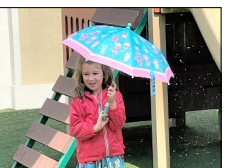
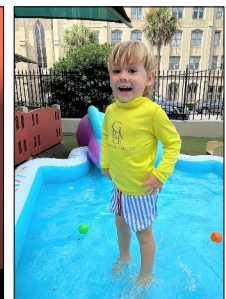
Join the fun on Wednesday nights! We are excited to welcome children younger than 1st grade to Joyful Noise which begins on September 6. Drop off is at the nursery door beginning at 5:15 p.m. Supper is served from 5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. The children enjoy singing, playing instruments, making musical art, and playing musical games. You can pick up your child from the playground at 7:00 p.m.

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders

On Sunday, September 10, our 4th & 5th graders will begin meeting during the 11:00 service for Worship Education. This class will meet for 4 weeks, September 10, 17, and October 1, 15. On the 10th, children should meet in the middle section of the balcony below the Wesley window at 10:50 a.m. We'll stay for part of the service and spend the second part of our time in room 305 learning about the different parts of the worship service and how they fit together. Pick up will be from the Fellowship Hall.



## Wacky Water Week





## Evangelism

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

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during July. Our next New Member Course will be Sundays, September 17 and 24, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays. Nursery is provided. The class will join as a group on Sunday, September 24. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



### Terri and Patrick Benton with daughter, Ansley Benton

The Bazemores invited the Bentons to church. Already Terri is a Prayer Partner for an Urban Hope child. Ansley works in the office of Dr. Daly, son-in-law of Mildred Walker. Terri grew up on the Isle of Hope and works at Charles Ellis and Juliette Low Schools. Patrick is from Jacksonville, Florida.

Shepherds: Michele and Jim Bazemore



### Lauren and Jonathan To with daughter, Maya

The To family came to Wesley through the Young Mothers' Bible Study. Jon works for Deloitte, and Lauren works for the Christian ministry, Cru. Their infant daughter, Maya, has her own baby shepherd, Lily Costa Rogers. The To family and Lauren's parents are also Prayer Partners for Urban Hope children.

Shepherds: Savannah and Scott Rogers  
Maya's Shepherd: Lily Costa Rogers

### New Topics in Bible Study

#### "Women in the Bible"

Young Mothers' Bible Study, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Oliver Hall, 3rd floor, nursery provided. Nelle teaches the mothers; Carmine Cowart teaches the children; please sign up with Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



#### "Mark's Gospel"

Thursday Noon Bible Study, via Zoom. Please sign up with Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



## Wesley Christmas Bazaar

The Wesley Christmas Bazaar is returning this year and will feature the creative talents of Wesley folks. The Bazaar will showcase handwork, including but not limited to woodwork, monogrammed clothing and linen items, photography, jewelry, hand-painted notecards and local landscapes, calligraphy, candles, scroll-sawn ornaments, wooden pens, needlework, picture frames, dried flowers, toys, lathe turned bowls, and furniture--just to mention a few. The Bazaar will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about the gifts of our fellow church members and shop for Christmas.



The Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Oliver Hall. We are looking for vendors, and you are invited to reserve your space now. If you have any questions, contact one of the co-chairs: Woody Brown at 912-352-7833, or Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



## Missions

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

Join us on a Mission Trip to Santa Elena, Honduras. Details below!



### Family Mission Project: Feed the Hungry

All are welcome! Join us Friday, September 1, from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Oliver Hall lobby. Please bring a canned good or a box of your favorite cereal. We'll sack groceries for Old Savannah City Mission. All ages are welcome. Please sign up with Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

## A Monumental Christmas

*The marketplace of gifts in service to others, opening in November.*

For this Advent and Christmas season, consider a gift that keeps on giving. Rather than buying more things, an "alternative gift" is a donation you make to one of the 12 agencies Wesley shares in ministry with. You "purchase" an alternative gift through a donation that funds the affiliated agency's programming. The church directs your donation to the organization you've chosen. We supply a specially designed gift card for you to give to the recipient. The catalog will be available later in the fall.



## An Adult Mission Experience in Santa Elena, Honduras

February 10-17, 2024

We are putting together a team for the second year in a row to serve families with children through Mission on the Move and the construction of three \$1500 homes through El Camino Central America Outreach. There are many ways to serve throughout the week, and all are invited. Your walk with Christ will be strengthened. It is an easy Delta flight with comfortable lodging and good food. Registration information will be available in October. If you would like more information, contact Scott

Cleaveland at 912-598-8278 or talk to one of last year's team members: Pat & Sharlene Monahan, Skip & Sheila Watts, Malinda & Newman Smith, Jake Coakley, or Rusty Holt.



## Congregational Life

James P. Owens, Congregational Life  
912-232-0191 Ext. 209, james@wesleymonumental.org

### September Merry Makers

Our senior adults' fellowship, the Monumental Merry Makers, will meet Monday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with Ben Martin speaking. Lunch (\$7) will be provided by Suzanna. Email bakerj@wesleymonumental.org by Friday, September 8 to RSVP.



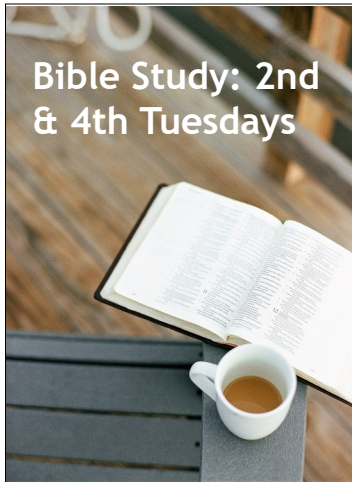


# Wesley Gardens Retreat

Micah Sprunger, Retreat Director

## Fourth Friday Retreat

On September 22, 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), this liturgically-based retreat will feature teaching and discussion. We will provide coffee and tea at the Memory Garden gazebo from 8:30 a.m. The retreat is from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., with the remainder of the afternoon available for a self-guided personal retreat. Feel free to bring your own lunch or snack. For questions and further details, please email [hello@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:hello@wesleygardensretreat.com).



## Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Join us in September for an in-depth study by Bible scholar and ESV commentator Dr. Scott Hafemann. We will be looking closely at the Exodus/Passover-Redemption, which is the foundation for all of God's saving actions, including the life and death and resurrection of the Messiah. Tuesdays, September 12 and 26, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Main House. For details, contact: [hello@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:hello@wesleygardensretreat.com) for details.

## Volunteers Invited

Would you enjoy gardening in a quiet and prayerful environment? Individual or group volunteers are invited to help maintain the Grounds. Tasks include:

- Removing Spanish moss from shrubs
- Weeding
- Trimming azaleas
- Keeping the marsh edge clean

Email [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com) for details.



## 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 chairs/benches with engravings are available. For further info, please email [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com).



# Memorials & Honors

## September 2023

*Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:*

### The Capstone Project/Building Fund

In memory of  
**Hope Weeks Lassiter**  
From  
Debra & Paul Mamalakis

In memory of  
**Pat Besser**  
From  
Melissa Emery

### The Endowment Fund

In memory of  
**Pat Besser**  
From  
Carolyn Roth & Don Riddle

In memory of  
**Hope Weeks Lassiter**  
From  
Camille O'Neill

### The Music Endowment Fund

In memory of  
**Grace Bockes**  
From Camille O'Neill

Monumental Music  
In memory of  
**Harry Gottwals**  
From  
Wesley Chancel Choir



# Jane Shirah Circle

The Jane Shirah Circle will meet on September 27.



## Music

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



### Children's Choir Registration

Children's Choirs begin Wednesday, September 6 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and choir from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. We look forward to our annual Nativity Pageant, Easter Play, and lots of opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. This year the oldest children have an option for intensive singing lessons, and we will play chimes and have lots of fun, traditional hymn singing. Please register by scanning the QR code.



### Youth Choir

Exciting news! Youth Choir for students grades 6th-12th begins Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m. with dinner and youth group following. We're excited for an awesome year of singing and worshipping!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 || 6PM - 9PM

# The Fabulous EQUINOX ORCHESTRA

## CABARET UNDER THE STARS

BUY TICKETS NOW AT:

[EQUINOXORCHESTRA.COM](http://EQUINOXORCHESTRA.COM)

BENEFITING THE WESLEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

### Cabaret Under the Stars with The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra

Thursday, October 19  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Wine, Dinner, Dancing, and Music  
429 Abercorn Street

Enjoy a beautiful October evening with a backdrop of one of Savannah's breathtaking squares entertained by The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra. Invite your friends to an enchanting evening of scrumptious food, delectable wine, and captivating music! All proceeds will support the Wesley Children's Choir, providing music education for hundreds of children. Tickets available for purchase at [equinoxorchestra.com](http://equinoxorchestra.com).





## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



### Wacky Water Week at Eli's Place

