

December
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THE

MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Cabaret Under the Stars



Urban Hope supper featured young waiters and waitresses from Wesley.



Our friends at Eli's Place walking in their annual Storybook Spooktacular parade.

Wesley Christmas Bazaar was held November 4 in Oliver Hall.



Youth playing Humans vs. Zombies.



From Ben's Desk

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



In many ways December arrives with Christmas already here. Christmas carols are on every radio station, Christmas movies on television, Christmas decorations all around, and Christmas sales in every store. Even churches are singing Christmas carols as soon as Thanksgiving is over. The victim of this premature Christmas is the season of Advent. Ironically, it is the season of waiting, preparation, and expectation. In a world where we have come to expect everything now, waiting is no longer a virtue to be cultivated but rather a flaw to be corrected.

Maybe no season of the Christian year is a more important rebellion against the culture than Advent. It calls us impatient people to be patient. Just think how patience would change the world we live in. What if we were more patient with each other, more patient with change, more patient with ourselves, and even more patient with God? Advent calls us to live with faith and hope, and the Lord only knows we could use some more faith and hope. But for the most part, we don't want faith and hope; we want surety. Faith and hope call us to relinquish control to trust in someone we can't see. We might think of faith and hope as the fuel for patience. By now, we all know God's time is not our time, so to walk in faith we must learn to wait in hope.

Advent turns our eyes towards Jesus, who promised He would come again, and surely we need to keep our eyes on Jesus, the source of our faith and hope. Remember the words of that little gospel chorus, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory in grace."

Christmas is wonderful, but it is even better when we've had Advent. A little patience, anticipation, faith, and hope make Christmas a true celebration, not an afterthought. So make sure you carve out time to worship at Wesley during the season of Advent; otherwise, you may be tired of Christmas before it actually gets here.



Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care
912-232-0191, carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com



Merry Makers and Wanna-Be Merry Makers are asked to save this date for our annual Christmas gathering on Monday, December 11. We will gather for brunch at 11:00 a.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. Our own Claire Frazier will provide the entertainment, and we will be treated to a mini-Christmas bazaar by those who participated in the church-wide bazaar in November. Participants are asked to bring a favorite holiday treat to share. Call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191. Cost is \$7 per person. Questions? Call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



Youth Ministry

Hello All, Your friendly neighborhood Youth Committee Chair Sheila Watts here. There have been quite a few happenings with the youth ministry. Students had a great time playing Humans vs. Zombies. A group favorite, so naturally, we play once a semester. Wesley also sent a group of youth to the Encounter Retreat at Epworth by the Sea.



We are preparing for an equally exciting Advent and Christmas season. The youth will participate in a Mission Night (the Christmas Edition) and Christmas Party. Stay tuned for more news on upcoming December Events.



If your student is not yet plugged into the Wesley Monumental Youth Ministry, now is a great time to start!



Children's Ministry

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

We have a lot of fun activities and events planned for December. Read below for details and join the fun!



Christmas Ornament Painting



On Sunday, November 26, we'll be painting pottery ornaments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 service. These ornaments can be hand-painted by your child, and then they are glazed and fired by professionals. Ornaments are \$12 each and come with a ribbon for hanging. No need to make a reservation. The ornaments will be ready for pick up the week before Christmas.

Christmas Fun Day for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers

On Saturday, December 9, the nursery will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for Christmas Fun Day! We enjoy having the children come and spend the day with us, and we hope all their parents have some time to enjoy the Christmas season. We are providing lunch and plan to eat around noon. We'll make ornaments, bake cookies, play on the playground, and watch a Christmas movie. It is fine for the children to come for the whole day or for any part of the day. To register, send an email to charli@wesleymonumental.org with the time they will be arriving on the 9th.



Christmas Presentations

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for our children's Christmas presentations.

- ◆ The Joyful Noise Choir children will present their Christmas Celebration Program, Sunday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- ◆ The Nativity Pageant will be presented in the sanctuary following Wednesday Night Supper on December 13, at 6:15 p.m.



Christmas Eve Family Service

This year, our Family Service will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. During this service, the children bring in the pieces to our nativity scene. If your child would like to participate in this service, please send an email to charli@wesleymonumental.org.



4th/5th Grade SS Class learning about the Armor of God



Storybook Spooktacular Parade





Evangelism & Missions

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

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during October. Our next New Member Course will be December 10 and 17, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays and Wednesday, December 6, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. for Stewardship Training led by Ron Washburn, with the class joining as a group on Sunday, December 17. Nursery provided. All three sessions will meet in the church library, 2nd floor, Oliver Hall. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



Allison Anderson & Drake Reinke

Every Shepherd is special, but it is particularly meaningful when your Shepherd is family! Allison's maternal aunt is Janna Martin. Allison grew up in Statesboro, and Drake grew up in Savannah. They are engaged to be married at Wesley on February 3. Allison teaches third grade, and Drake is president of AMX Logistics. Drake enjoys fishing.

Shepherd: Janna Martin



Melissa & Andrew Eckman & children, Henry & Palmer

Both Andrew and Melissa are originally from Virginia. She works in events for Gulfstream, and he works in real-estate investment. He completed his MBA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Their son, Henry, is three, and their daughter, Palmer, is one. They are expecting a baby boy in April.

*Shepherds: Elizabeth and Benjamin Cobb
Children's Shepherds: Banks and Elle Cobb*



Josh Downing

Josh is an Eagle Scout and is dating Sarah Garvin, a Wesley member. He has already helped with church mission projects, such as the furniture distribution day for Family Promise formerly homeless families. He is from Savannah.

Shepherd: Sarah Garvin



Becky & Jeff Endsley

Jeff retired from General Motors, and Becky retired from teaching. They have grandchildren in Ohio, where they raised their family. Becky looks forward to helping with children's ministry at Wesley and to joining a church circle.

Shepherds: Deborah & Willie Roberds

Premature Babies Need Your Help!

Low-income families with a baby in the Memorial Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) need the following items. Please drop off in Oliver Hall by December 31. Our youth will organize all items. Needed are:

- ◆ baby clothes in preemie & newborn sizes
- ◆ books
- ◆ muslin swaddle blankets
- ◆ Halo sleep sacks

- ◆ crocheted octopus toys
- ◆ portable music boxes/sound machines
- ◆ baby shusher (for withdrawal babies)
- ◆ scrapbooking supplies

Questions? Sheila Watts,
smbone119@yahoo.com;
or Nelle Bordeaux,
tbordeaux@prodigy.net

Groceries Needed for Individuals and Families in Need

- peanut butter
- sacks of rice or dry beans
- canned vegetables
- canned fruit
- canned meat
- soup
- oatmeal or cereal
- grits
- pasta



Please place in boxes located by all doors.



Urban Hope Prayer Partners May Choose to Provide Christmas Presents for Their Prayer Partner Child

If you signed up as the Prayer Partner for an Urban Hope child, you are doing the most important work of all, by praying daily for your child. If you also want to buy and wrap presents for your child (2 presents-one toy and one clothing item; \$50 limit total), please speak with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net or 912-232-0191. Please drop off 2 wrapped presents clearly marked with your name and your Urban Hope child's name by Sunday, December 3, in the Oliver Hall lobby. Nelle has a "wish list" for each Urban Hope child with sizes and items the child would like.



Evangelism & Missions

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



Urban Hope Children's and Family Supper to Be Held December 11

Please meet at Independent Presbyterian Church, 207 Bull Street (please park in the lane and enter the fellowship hall from the lane) at 5:30 p.m. (The Urban Hope children will arrive at 6:00 p.m., and we usually finish cleaning up by 7:30 p.m.). Needed are ham, macaroni and cheese, sweet potato casserole, grape salad, salad, green beans, cut fruit, lemonade, cookies, plastic cutlery, large and small plates, napkins, cups, and rolls. Please sign up in advance with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. All ages are welcome!



Newly Arriving Refugee Families Need Housewares

Please Drop Off in Oliver Hall lobby by December 15.
Items may be gently used, unless otherwise indicated:



Lamps
Silverware
Plates, bowls, small plates
Serving dishes and platters
Pots & pans- large pots with lids
Baking dishes

Kitchen utensils and knives
Can opener
Measuring cups and spoons
Towels
Twin sheets
Twin and queen comforters

New pillows
New Paper towels & toilet paper
Small and large waste baskets
New mops and brooms
New Trash bags
Mugs and glasses

Help Needed for Hospitalized Children on Christmas Morning

Want to help visit children in the hospital on Christmas morning from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.? Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. Must be age 12 or older to sign up.

The 2023 Christmas Offering - Addressing Hunger

According to Healthy Savannah, a nonprofit focused on poverty - in the fall of 2023 - 17.6% of all residents and 21.8% of children in Chatham County are food insecure. If in doubt, check out the line of cars every Friday morning at the intersection of Harmon and Anderson. As a response, our 2023 Christmas offering will be used to fund dynamic food programs that are feeding those most in need. The funds received in this Christmas offering will be divided between PACK (Backpack Buddies), who feed children while out of school, Old Savannah City Mission, who feed the homeless, and Fellowship of Love, who feed families and shut-ins. Each organization provides food directly to those in need with minimal overhead and partnership with Second Harvest. If you have any questions or would like to serve more directly, contact Rev. Nelle Bordeaux.



February Mission Trip to Santa Elena Honduras February 11-18, 2024

A Wesley team will serve with Mission on the Move (MOM) in Santa Elena over St. Valentine's week. In addition to working with the children and providing maintenance support for MOM facilities, we will build houses again with El Camino. The days are peppered with times of reflection, Bible study, and song. While we have some folks skilled at framing buildings, all you need is a loving heart, open mind, and helping hands to be a great team member. Our accommodations are clean and comfortable, the food is good, and we serve in a safe community. Attendees are expected to cover their Delta Airlines ticket, currently running around \$600, and a portion of room and board. **If you are interested in serving, contact Scott Cleaveland at 912-598-8278 by Sunday, December 17.** The absolute cut-off for attendance is January 5. If you have questions about

Mission on the Move, speak with Sharlene Monahan, Will Faulk, or Sheila Watts. Rusty Holt and Jake Coakley are well-versed in our home construction with El Camino. Please consider serving, you will be blessed by the experience.



Wesley Gardens Retreat

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



Commemorative Live Oaks and Adirondack Chairs

For those seeking to honor a loved one or wishing to make a lasting contribution to Wesley Gardens Retreat, commemorative live oaks and teak Adirondack chairs with plaques are available. All gifts are tax-deductible. For further info, please email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com.

Volunteers Needed

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, and keeping the marsh edge clean. Email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com for details.



The Sacred Journey Retreat

A wonderful success in the spring, this retreat at Wesley Gardens is back. The retreat will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, and end by lunchtime on Sunday, December 3. We will explore the spiritual journey, new ways to engage in ancient spiritual practices, and experience abundant rest. Your ticket includes ALL MEALS during your stay, lodging, spiritual direction, materials, and a special gift.

Wesley Gardens Retreat Merchandise

We've long wanted to try some merchandise, as well as a scholarship fund, so the idea here is to try both. All proceeds go toward a scholarship fund for retreatants. To view items and to purchase, visit, www.bonfire.com/store/wgr-merch/



Poinsettia Orders



Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Friday, December 15, and may be taken home following the last Christmas Eve service. Please place your orders for plants (\$16) in memory or honor of loved ones by Sunday, December 10. Order forms may be found at all sanctuary entrances, or you can order and pay online by visiting www.wesleymonumental.org/poinsettias/



Memorials & Honors

December 2023

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

The Endowment Fund

In memory of
Dr. Joe Stubbs
From
Camille O'Neill

In memory of
Anne Holley
From
Frank & Florence Anderson

The Capstone Project/Building Fund

In Honor of
Ann, Jack & Charles Rhodes
From
Nancy K. Stevens

In memory of
Anne Holley
From
Melvin & Ann Croft

Monumental Music

In memory of
Anne Holley
From
Cler & Don Cole





Music

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



October 22 Children and Youth Leading Worship



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Fall Festival

