

January
2024

Volume 73 Issue 1
January 7, 2024

wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Chancel Choir Picnic in Taylor Square



Joyful Noise Choir on Nov. 12



Artist Retreat at Wesley Gardens



Savannah Trombone Choir in Worship Nov. 19



Wesley youth help haul Urban Hope children's presents to the sleigh, a.k.a. the church bus--thank you, Wesley members, for providing all Urban Hope children with Christmas presents and most importantly your prayers!



Youth Christmas Party at Wesley Gardens Retreat.



From Ben's Desk

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



Some of you will remember the words to the old Steve Miller Band song, "Time keeps on slipping, slipping, slipping, into the future." Every January, when a new year begins, the future becomes the present, and we all wonder where the last year went. Actually, January 1, 2024, is no different from December 31, 2023, or January 2, 2024. It's just another day. But, we feel the need to designate times to start over. To close the books and start fresh. Our electronic calendars these days have options on how to view them: daily, weekly, monthly, and annually. I normally find my calendar revolving around the week. For me, Sunday is always coming. But, I think I might be better off only looking at the day. After all, this one day is all we have. I can't get yesterday back, and I can't live tomorrow today. Every year, I tell myself this is the year I try to live more in the present moment, and then I get to this day and realize a year has come and gone, and I've failed to do that very well. So the good thing about a new year is I can try again to be more aware of the wonder and awe of God experienced in the world around me, the people I share life with, the circumstances I encounter, and the moments of awakening or awareness of the divine presence in all things.

That being said, we have a lot in front of us in 2024. We are about to launch into the renovation of our Education Building. It will take a lot of patience and cooperation from all of us to manage our space and times of activities. It will take a lot of generosity and self-giving on behalf of the congregation and staff. If we make a decision to treat it as such, it will be more than a renovation project; it will be a spiritual practice for us. We will get to practice living and working one day at a time while knowing each day will bring some blessings and some challenges, both of which we can be thankful for and grow through.



Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

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

Merry Makers

Army Captain Paden Sickles will speak at the January 8 Merry Makers meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Captain Sickles, an engineer, has just completed nearly a decade of service in the US Army. Her transition into civilian life included the formation of SickFit, a unique sock, streetwear, and custom embroidery company encouraging fashion, conversation, comfort, and empowerment.

Sickles says that SickFit was started on a hot summer day in Texas after she completed a 12-mile ruck march for Air Assault School, and her feet were destroyed. It was then that she knew that boot socks and performance socks lacked quality, innovation, and design. At that point, she pledged to do better for our service members and their families.

Captain Sickles recently competed in the Second Service Foundation's national Military Entrepreneur Challenge, where she got to pitch her business to a private panel of judges. She ended the competition in second place and received \$6,000 in start-up capital and \$25,000 pro-bono legal services, which she will utilize to scale her business to the next level while protecting her brand with risk management.

Paden is a Kentucky girl who grew up near Louisville. She has a contagious and winsome personality. She will so captivate her audience that Merry Makers may decide to enlist in the Army--or at least begin wearing different socks!

Call the church office for reservations. Cost is \$7 for lunch. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m.

Veterans Day Breakfast Video

The November 11 Veterans Day Breakfast program featuring Army Ranger Ryan Davis can now be viewed on the Wesley Monumental YouTube page.





Children's Ministry

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

Joyful Noise Choir presents

A Christmas Celebration



Eli's Place babies
Christmas caroling with
Ms. Monica.



Christmas Fun Day



Missions

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



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 January 3.

Needed are:

- ◆ baby clothes in preemie & newborn sizes
- ◆ crocheted octopus toys
- ◆ muslin swaddle blankets

Baby items and meals needed!
Read below to see how you can help.

Family Promise Needs Helpers



We'll host homeless families Sunday, January 14, through Saturday, January 20, and need helpers to cook meals at home and deliver to White Bluff Presbyterian Church. We also need overnight hosts to spend the night. Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

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.



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.



Youth Local Mission Night with preparing stockings of toiletries for Union Mission homeless guests, led by Neilie Dunn, chairman of the Union Mission board of directors.



Evangelism

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

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined the church in November. Our next New Member Course will be on Sundays, January 21 and 28, at 10:00 a.m., both Sundays, with a stewardship lesson on Wednesday, February 28, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. All three sessions will meet in the church library, 2nd floor, Oliver Hall. A nursery will be provided for all sessions. The class will join as a group on January 28. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



Kat & Josh Gardner

Josh is from Landrum, SC, where his mother has served as organist and choir master at his family's church, Landrum UMC. He and his wife, Katherine "Kat" Thompson Gardner, daughter of Anne and Tom Thompson, have newborn twin daughters born December 5, Juliet Anne and Lillian Jenny Gardner.

Shepherd: Kat Gardner



Lizzie & Blake Grimsley & children, Mary and James

Blake is originally from Texas, and Lizzie grew up in Savannah. She is an alumna of Savannah Country Day School and lifelong friend of her shepherd, Caroline, who also is an alumna. Now Mary, age 6, and James, age 4, attend Country Day along with the McDermott children. Blake works in trucking analytics, and Lizzie is a certified public accountant specializing in international tax accounting.

Shepherds: Caroline & Corey McDermott

Children's Shepherds: James & Maggie McDermott



Bible Studies for a New Year

- ◆ Young Mothers' Bible Study-"Women in the Bible"
Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. in Oliver Hall.
Nursery provided by the fabulous Carmine Cowart.
- ◆ Thursday Noon Bible Study-"Minor Prophets"
Thursdays, noon-12:30 p.m. via Zoom.



Youth Ministry

Hello All. Your friendly neighborhood Youth Committee Chair Sheila Watts here. There have been quite a few happenings with the youth ministry. The Advent and Christmas season was filled with lots of exciting activities. The youth took part in a Christmas mission night to complete projects for Urban Hope and Union Mission, and the youth also joined the Chancel Choir to carol to our church's shut-in members. We also had great times of fellowship celebrating with the



Annual Youth Christmas Party and "Fun with Skip and Sheila," including ice skating at the Civic Center. In December, Wednesday nights also saw the completion of the youth's study of the Book of Esther.

January will be the start of a new year but will see the return of regular Sunday and Wednesday night programming. We are excited to begin a study of the Book of Matthew on Wednesday nights. The youth also have two exciting mission projects lined up for January.

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





Wesley Gardens Retreat

Micah Sprunger, Retreat Director



Fourth Friday Retreat

On January 28, join us in the chapel for some time of guided retreat and solitude. In addition to morning prayer and Lectio Divina (meditation on Holy Scripture), this liturgically-based retreat will feature teaching and discussion. Coffee and tea are provided 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 self-guided personal retreat. Feel free to bring your own lunch or snack. For questions and further details, email hello@wesleygardensretreat.com.



Wesley Gardens 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, scan QR code or visit, www.bonfire.com/store/wgr-merch/

Commemorative Live Oaks and Adirondack Chairs with plaques available for anyone wishing to honor a loved one. Please email micah@wesleygardensretreat.com for further info.



Memorials & Honors

January 2024

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

The Pastors Discretionary Fund

In memory of
Anne Holley
From

Lou & Jeanette Cason
Margaret & William Rousseau
Sue Pflager

The Music Endowment Fund

In memory of
Anne Holley
From

Camille O'Neill
Bonnie Powers
Judi & Jamelle Burton
Connor & Debra Stamper
Alison Clay
Southbridge Garden Club

In memory of
Manuel "Manolo" Garcia-Melendez
From

Camille O'Neill
Ethel Burriss
Barbara Copeland

The Capstone Project/ Building Fund

In memory of
Anne Holley

From The Holley Family

In memory of
Jean Remley

From The Remley Family

The Endowment Fund

In memory of
Barbara Jane Duke
(Nancy Barnwell's sister)
From Camille O'Neill

In memory of
Jean Remley
From Camille O'Neill

In memory of
Regine Sparks
(Mother of Deborah McCorkle)
From Carole Hunter

Monumental Music

In memory of
Marjorie Buchanan
(Bebe Cole's sister)
From
Ken & Deanne Rimes

In memory of
John Burton
From
Ken & Deanne Rimes

In memory of
Anne Holley
From
Dot & Penny Harper
Madge & Joe Edwards

In memory of
Manolo Garcia-Melendez
From
Madge & Joe Edwards
Audrey A. Ashby & John Canarina
Henry & Debbie Whitfield



Music

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



Lessons and Carols 2023





Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Eli's Place Thanksgiving Program

