

April  
2024

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER

Volume 73 Issue 4  
April 7, 2024

wesleymonumental.org



## Life at Wesley



First grade-fifth grade choristers and youth choir leading worship.



Youth Local Mission Night included sacking and delivering groceries to Old Savannah City Mission, where the youth served supper to over 100 people in need.



On March 16, the Wesley Youth held their annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who donated items, volunteered, and ate breakfast.



## From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor

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



As you know by now, Easter came early this year. Rare is the year when we reach April, and Easter is already over. So what do we do for an encore after the days of Holy Week and the celebratory feast of Easter? To begin with, we remember that Easter is not a day but a fifty-day season. We are called to carry on the celebration of the resurrection for seven weeks leading into Pentecost. And, we have lots to celebrate here (besides the Masters, which I am always excited about.)

On April 14, our Confirmation Class will join the church. It is a very special Sunday when a group of our students, who have been meeting all year and learning about and growing in their faith, step up to this altar, profess faith in Christ, and join the church. They are here because you, as families and a church family, have sown grace and faith into their lives. Every time we baptize an infant, I remind the congregation that nothing we do is more important, and on Confirmation Sunday, we get to see the fruit of that investment into our children's lives.

That same weekend, April 12-14, Christian Swails will offer a "CoCreation" retreat at Wesley Gardens Retreat. CoCreation is the ministry of Christian and Hannah Swails. Christian, in addition to his ministry, serves on our staff as the Director of Spiritual Formation. This Retreat is a time to pull aside and, with some focused intentionality, live into the words of the Psalmist, "Be still and know that I am God." There is an opportunity to spend the weekend at the Retreat or stay in your own home at night and come out for the session on Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning. We are right at the deadline to sign up, so contact the church office for more information.

Then, Wednesday, April 17 our children will share their Easter play after dinner. They have been preparing their music and presentation throughout this winter/spring.

There are always many exciting things to celebrate here at Wesley, and even though Easter Sunday has passed, April will be full of meaningful things to celebrate.



## Youth Ministry

Hello All. Your friendly neighborhood Youth Committee Chair Sheila Watts here. March came in like a lion. The youth program started the month off by moving the youth room from the fourth floor of the Education Building to our new space on the fourth floor of Oliver Hall. The students love our new space! It is already starting to feel like ours. The youth also put on the annual St. Patrick's Day Pancake Breakfast. The pancake breakfast and preceding youth lock-in are so loved by our students. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event possible! Our students also volunteered with the Easter Egg Hunt at Wesley Gardens Retreat. They had fun hiding eggs and assisting with games and activities.

If your student is not yet plugged into the Wesley Monumental Youth Ministry, now is a great time to start! Please follow the youth on Instagram at [@wesley\\_monumental\\_youth](https://www.instagram.com/wesley_monumental_youth) for more photos and updates!





## Children's Ministry

Charli Weeks, Director of Children's Ministry  
912-232-0191 Ext. 225, [charli@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:charli@wesleymonumental.org)

### Children's Easter Program

Mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to our children's Easter program on Wednesday, April 17, at 6:15 p.m. Rehearsals are underway, and the children are excited about their singing and speaking parts. The program is being presented during the season of Easter, and it will be a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, our Savior.



### Vacation Bible School

This year our Vacation Bible School will be held at Wesley Gardens Retreat June 3 - 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. At this time, registration is open for all Wesley Monumental families. Register at [www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental)



### Summer Fun Daze at Wesley Gardens Retreat

Wesley children, who have completed kindergarten through third grade, can attend our Summer Fun Daze camp at Wesley Gardens Retreat the week of July 15-19. It will be a fun week full of games, crafts, science, and water fun along with some time spent studying God's Word. Monday - Wednesday we'll start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. On Thursday, we'll start at 9:00 a.m., and we will be spending the night at Wesley Gardens! Our tired campers will be ready to be picked up at noon on Friday. The cost for the week is \$85. Space is limited. At this time registration is open for members of Wesley Monumental. You can register for VBS and/or Summer Fun Daze at [www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental)



### Summer Camp at Eli's Place

Summer Camp at Eli's Place is for children as young as 12 weeks through those who have completed Pre-K and will be starting kindergarten in the fall. It is a great opportunity for children to build friendships with other children who are members of Wesley. Registration opens on April 10.

### Ninja Warrior Day at Eli's Place



### The Widow's Mite



After hearing the Sunday school lesson on the Widow's Mite, Wesley members Ellie and Dean held a lemonade stand on St. Patrick's Day, selling "Lucky Lemonade." They raised almost \$50 for a Lenten Mission Offering and had a lot of fun even if the mite box did get run over by a car!



## Evangelism

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

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during February. The next New Member Course will be on Sundays, April 21 and 28, at 10:00 a.m. both days, with the class joining as a group on April 28. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



### **Ellen & Chase Brown & daughter, Rowe Brown**

Already Ellen is in the Young Mothers' Bible Study; she is an interior designer with Gaston Crue and is originally from Burlington, NC; Chase is in the medical device business. Their

daughter, Rowe, is twelve weeks old. Ben Martin baptized Ellen in February.

*Shepherds: Ellen and Jeff O'Connor*

*Rowe's Shepherds: Clara and Alice O'Connor*



### **Carrie Connell & daughter, Aria Connell**

Carrie grew up in Statesboro, GA, and she is a certified public accountant and a partner in an accounting firm. Aria, age 5 1/2, is in kindergarten at Savannah Country Day School with her shepherd, Will Hamilton. Carrie is an alumna of Georgia Southern University.

*Shepherds: Reanna and Dustin Hamilton*

*Aria's Shepherds: Will and Pierce Hamilton*

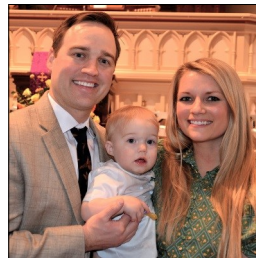


### **Tiffany & Charles Stewart children, Harper & Beau Stewart**

Tiffany is active in the Young Mothers' Bible Study and Wednesday night young women's Bible study, and she is from Tattnall County. Charles grew up in Savannah and works for ABC Waste as the general manager. He loves hunting, and she likes gardening. Harper is 2 1/2, and Beau will be one this month; both children attend Eli's Place.

*Shepherds: Robin and Cody Wyatt*

*Harper and Beau's shepherd: Hank Wyatt*



### **Marie & Arden Hadwin, Jr. & son, Arden Hadwin, III**

Marie is from Charlotte, NC, and Arden grew up in Savannah. He and John Kingston, Jr., are first cousins, as their mothers are sisters. Arden, III, is nearly one year old. Arden, Jr. works in medical orthopaedics, and Marie is in wealth management for an accounting firm. Arden, Jr. also enjoys hunting.

*Shepherds: Mackenzie and John Kingston, Jr.*

*Arden III's Shepherd: Elizabeth "Birdie" Kingston*



### **Spring Tea Honoring New Members & Shepherds**

Saturday, April 20  
1:00-2:00 p.m.  
Oliver Hall Parlor

Please R.S.V.P. to the church office,  
912-232-0191,  
or to Nelle,  
tbordeaux@prodigy.net

For new members during the past year and their shepherds.

### **Bible Studies!**

#### **Young Mothers' Bible Study**

- Meets Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. in Oliver Hall
- Presently studying "Women of the Bible"
- Bible Buddies nursery provided by Carmine Cowart, who teaches the children, while Nelle teaches the mothers.

#### **Thursday Noon Bible Study**

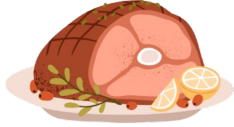
- Meets from noon to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Currently studying "Minor Prophets"

Sign up for either Bible study with Nelle,  
tbordeaux@prodigy.net



## Missions

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



Urban Hope Family Supper, Monday, April 22, please sign up to help cook and serve a meal for 75 Urban Hope guests. Needed are ham, macaroni and cheese, sweet potatoes, cut fruit, green beans, salad, rolls, lemonade, cookies, plastic silverware, napkins, large and small paper plates, and cups. Please meet at 5:30 p.m. at Independent Presbyterian Church; the Urban Hope children and families will arrive at 6:00 p.m., and we usually finish clean-up by 7:30 p.m. Sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



### Youth Local Mission Night

Sunday, April 7, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

We'll travel in the church van to the Living Vine Christian Maternity Home to do yard work and to learn about the ministry there to mothers and babies.

### Youth Local Mission Week

July 22-26, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Adults needed to help youth in local service; please come for all or any part of a day or the week. Please speak with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



## Announcements

THE 73RD ANNUAL  
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



**LIFT UP THE WORD -  
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

## Easy ways to stay informed at WMUMC!

There's *always* something happening at Wesley Monumental. We love our community of faith, and we love making sure you're aware of all our opportunities to connect and serve. Here are a few ways you can stay on top of what's happening in our church.

### 1) Sign Up for the Wesley Weekly Email Newsletter

Every Wednesday, we send an email featuring important events, service opportunities, and information that will help you join in with our community. It's quick and easy to skim when you're in a hurry. If you don't already receive the Wesley Weekly email, you can sign up online or call the church office to be added to the list.

### 2) Look at our Website

Last fall, we updated our website, wesleymonumental.org. We wanted it to be current, helpful, and beautiful. There is a ton of information there, so if you have a question, it's a great place to start. There are pages for our church's history, FAQs, a map to help visitors figure out our parking situation, and more. There's also a regularly updated calendar of events online.

If you're having trouble finding something on our website, click the magnifying glass in the top right of the website then type in a few keywords and hit enter to search.

**Jane Shirah Circle** - The Jane Shirah Circle will meet April 24.



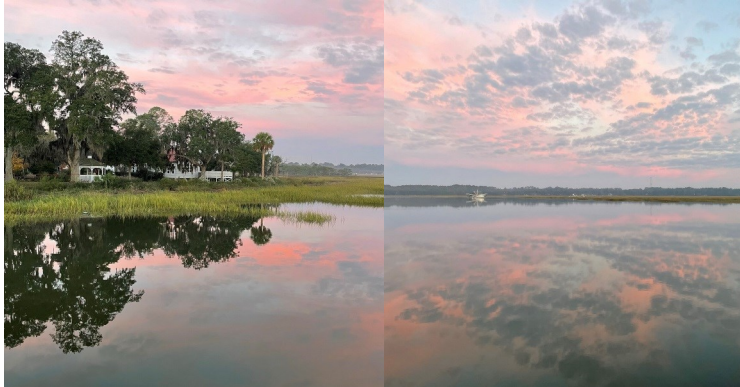
## Wesley Gardens Retreat

Micah Sprunger, Retreat Director



### Spring Commemorative Live Oaks Available

Spring is for planting! For those seeking to honor a loved one or make a lasting contribution to Wesley Gardens Retreat, commemorative Live Oaks with metal plaques are available for April. All gifts are tax deductible. For further info, please email [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com).



### Fourth Friday Retreat

On April 26, join us in the Main House and 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 is provided in the Great Room 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](mailto:@wesleygardensretreat.com).

### Grounds Upkeep Volunteers Needed

Part of the "Soul Care" we offer is providing retreatants with beautiful thoughtfully kept outdoor spaces to sit, stroll and pray. Would you enjoy being part of this behind-the-scenes ministry? Individual or group volunteers are invited to join in! Tasks may include removing Spanish moss, weeding, trimming azaleas, and keeping the marsh edge clean. Email [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com) for details.



## Spiritual Direction

Christian Swails, Wesley Gardens Spiritual Director  
912-217-8646, [hello@cocreationlife.com](mailto:hello@cocreationlife.com)  
[cocreationlife.com](http://cocreationlife.com), [christianswails.com](http://christianswails.com)

### Spiritual Direction

What is a Spiritual Direction Session Like?



It can be tough to try something new when you're not quite sure what it is or what to expect. Spiritual Direction has been historically difficult to describe because it is incredibly experiential and unique to each individual. When you book a Spiritual Direction session you will receive a text from me (Christian) to set up an initial phone call. The call is for us to "meet" one another and make sure this is a good fit for you in this season. During the call I will help you understand more about Spiritual Direction and answer any questions you may have. If we determine it's a good fit, we will meet in person at Wesley Gardens on the date you booked through the link above. We will meet in one of the cottages or a quiet space in the main house. I will bring us into some silence together and help us settle into the space. I'll then read a piece of scripture or wisdom literature as a blessing over us. We will enter back into the silence. If you have never had the opportunity to hold sacred silence with another, it is hard to describe how transformative and revealing that space is. During those moments, the noise of life begins to fade, and what's really going on below the surface begins to emerge. So it's ok if you don't know right now what it is you want to get to in Spiritual Direction. This is what I will help you with. As the things that want to be said begin to emerge, I will invite you to share those things. I will listen, without judgement or agenda, to the places within you that have been silenced, or too busy, or too scared, or too hurt, or too confused to process. I will work with the Holy Spirit to help you discover Christ within you in those places. This is a safe, confidential, and brave space for you to notice and name the things that you can't get to on your own. I would be honored to hold this space with you.

### CoCreation Weekend Retreat April 12-14 at Wesley Gardens

If you've been attending weekly spiritual practices or meaning to, this is the perfect opportunity to jump in. Meals will be provided, and we'll start with a dinner on Friday evening and end around 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Staying overnight at Wesley Gardens is optional, or you can go home and return each day. The cost is \$100 per person, and the retreat will be limited to 15 people. If interested, please email Christian at [christian@cocreationlife.com](mailto:christian@cocreationlife.com) or visit <https://www.wesleymonumental.org/retreats/>



## Music

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

*"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." Psalm 145:4*



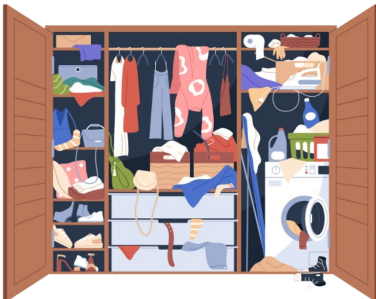
February 25, 2024

First grade - fifth grade choristers, youth choir, chancel choir and orchestra



## Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care  
912-232-0191, [carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com)



### ***Downsizing: Declutter, Destash and Dump***

The Merry Makers will meet on Monday, April 8, at 11:00 a.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. The program is "Downsizing: Declutter, Destash and Dump."

Come prepared to share your collective wisdom. Lunch will be served. Cost is \$7.00. Call the church office to make your reservation or email [bakerj@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:bakerj@wesleymonumental.org).



## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



### Education Building Groundbreaking



On February 25, children and adults signed a piece of lumber, which will be used in the Education Building renovation.

