

November  
2024

Volume 73 Issue 11  
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wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



## Life at Wesley



Deanne Rimes made 100  
chocolate chip cookies for our  
construction crew



Chiming of the Hour



Chorister Emily Davis giving the children's sermon



Youth fall break was filled with lots of fun and service



Learning all about pumpkins at Eli's Place







## From Ben's Desk

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

## *A Month for Thanks-Giving*

November is most closely associated with the celebration of Thanksgiving, but it is a month full of things for which we are thankful. The first Sunday in November, we celebrate All Saints Sunday when we gratefully remember those members of our church who have "fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith" among us and outrun us to the Father's house during the last year. On November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day and give thanks to those who have faithfully served in our nation's armed forces. Then, of course, comes Thanksgiving Day, where we gratefully count our blessings for how much God has given to us in our lives and nation.

This year, we will be adding a special celebration of thanksgiving as we bring our Capstone Education Building Renovation Project to a close and move back into our building. Our plan is to have an Open House Celebration and lunch after the 11:00 worship service on November 24.

There are many ways to express our thanks to God in worship and service. But, November is also the month we make a commitment of our tithes and offerings for the upcoming year (2025) with our Stewardship Estimate of Giving Campaign. (You should receive a letter and Estimate of Giving card in the mail by the first of November.) On November 10, we will have our Stewardship Sunday and invite you to prayerfully consider how God has blessed you to give back in thanksgiving and support of our ministry next year, and to turn in your Estimate of Giving card. This spiritual discipline helps us hold ourselves accountable to practice thankful generosity in our lives. It also helps our Finance Committee make responsible decisions in setting our 2025 Budget.

I encourage you also if you have not made a commitment to the renovation project or made a one-time gift, to do so as part of our celebration of the completion of the project. Remember, the work may be done, but the project is not complete until we pay for it.

We have so much to be thankful for here at Wesley Monumental; join us all month in giving thanks with our "hearts, hands, and voices."



## Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care  
912-232-0191 Ext. 202, [carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com)



### Christmas Bazaar

Wesley's annual Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday, November 2, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the parlor of Oliver

Hall. Artisans of all kinds will be featured. It will be a great day to do some Christmas shopping. You may purchase on site, or in some cases, place a special order. There will also be a bake sale, and donations of baked goods are being sought. Donations from the bake sale will go to UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief. Donations are particularly needed to aid with hurricane relief. Questions? See Carolyn Hale Cubbedge or Woody Brown.



### Veterans Day Breakfast

Wesley's annual Veterans Day Breakfast will be on Monday, November 11, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year's speaker is Sgt. Marolyn Hale, Air Force veteran. Her topic will be the Honor Flight Program for veterans. All veterans and active military will be our guests. Donations will be received to offset costs. Please call the church office to make your reservations so we can have ample food prepared. Questions? See Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.





## Children's Ministry

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



It's not too late to join the Joyful Noise Choir! We are beginning to work on our Christmas Celebration program in the first week of November. We welcome children for supper in the nursery beginning at 5:15 p.m. each Wednesday night and then go to choir for singing, playing instruments, musical games, and art projects. Drop-off is at the Nursery door, and pick-up is from the playground. The Joyful Noise Christmas Celebration program is on Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 p.m.

### Nativity Pageant

Auditions for the Nativity Pageant will take place the last week of October for 1st-5th grade children who participate in Children's Choir. Rehearsals begin the first week in November, and the pageant will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18.



### Save the Dates for our Fall and Winter Events

It's hard to believe how fall is flying by. You'll be reading this right after our Fall Festival, which is always a fun event for our youngest members. Please put the dates below on your calendar and plan to join us!

- Eli's Place Thanksgiving Program and Street Party - Friday, November 22
- Christmas Fun Day - Saturday, December 14
- Christmas Celebration Play and Dinner - Sunday, December 15
- Nativity Pageant - Wednesday, December 18



### Bible Presentation Sunday



The second graders enjoyed playing Bible games on Bible Presentation Sunday.



Eli's Place teachers practicing CPR at our 1st Aid and CPR class.



Eli's Place Toddler class on the playground.

Making apple pies to celebrate Johnny Appleseed's 250th birthday!







## Evangelism & Missions

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

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined the church. Our next New Member Course will be on Sundays, November 17 and 24 (please come to both of the two-part series) at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of Oliver Hall. The class will join as a group on November 24. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191. Nursery provided. All the following joined on September 29, except the Mullers, who joined on May 19.



### **Kendal Bunn & Joshua Berkebile**

They have been married two years in December, and Joshua first visited Wesley as a young boy on a confirmation retreat from Forsyth UMC in Forsyth, GA! God led them back to Wesley. They both went to Georgia Southern, and he works at Wells Fargo, and she works at Gulfstream. Already, they are active in Sunday School in the Being Class.

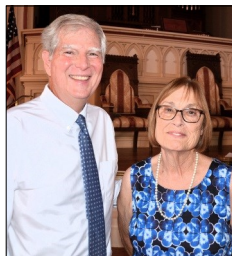
*Shepherds: Sheila and Skip Watts*



### **Caroline & Jack Edwards**

Literally Jack's paternal grandparents have "shepherded" them into the church, Caroline mentioned. Jack grew up in Savannah and works in medical sales, and Caroline grew up in Atlanta and has her own international travel business. They met at Ole Miss and have been married for four years. Jack's parents and Caroline's father all came on the Sunday they joined the church.

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



### **Rev. Martha & Bruce Fielden**

Both retired, the Fieldens moved from Roswell, GA, to be closer to their daughter, Sarah Beth. Martha will keep her membership in the conference, as she is a United Methodist pastor. Originally Bruce is from Monroe, NC, and they have been married for 43 years.

*Shepherds: Rev. Karen and Dale Kilhefner*



### **Maggie Hatchett**

Maggie grew up in Brunswick, GA, and is the new director of student ministries at the church. She and her husband, Ethan, have been married for two years. Ethan works at Victory Gardens and loves native plants, and he also enjoys writing and caring for his animals. Maggie likes to make crafts. Already, she has led many activities for the youth. She also is already in the youth handbell choir.

*Shepherd: Robin Canady*



### **Del & Rick Muller**

Del and Rick have three children, Anna, Thomas, and Andrew. Rick played football at William and Mary and received his MBA from Columbia University. He is a Principal at Chatham Capital Group and is also the board chair of Horizons Savannah. Del is an alumna of Wellesley College, and she earned her MBA at Vanderbilt. She currently manages Akins LLC, a real-estate partnership. In her free time, she enjoys playing STL and USTA tennis and is on the team with her Shepherd that went to the state championship. Already, Del helps teach the Bible Buddies children of the Young Mothers' Bible Study with Carmine Cowart.

*Shepherd: Dr. Gillian Kicklighter*



### **Jen & James Shuttleworth & sons, Jameson & Jarrett**

James Shuttleworth is a military reservist, and Jen is a stay-at-home mom. They met at the University of Georgia, where they were also friends with their shepherds. Jameson and Jarrett attend May Howard Elementary School, and already Jarrett is in the children's choir at church, and Jen is active in Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible study.

*Shepherds: Pam and James Hammock and children, Trip and Bo*

### **Jerry Thomas**

Originally from Athens, GA, Jerry is retired from his medical accounts receivable management company. He is a board member, along with fellow Wesley member, Dr. Byron Boyd, of the Savannah Council on World Affairs. Jerry is the leader of the Savannah/Hilton Head Island Prostate Cancer Support Group, and he also is a member of the Rotary Club of Savannah South. He enjoys bicycling. He is visiting Sunday school classes to find a discussion-based, substantive content class. *Shepherd: Jewel Hendrix*





## Evangelism & Missions

Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach & New Members  
912-234-9245, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net)

### Fall into Bible Study

- **Tuesdays, Young Mothers' Bible Study**, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Oliver Hall Parlor, with Bible Buddies nursery provided for infants and children. Our new topic for November will be "Parenting in the Bible," a short 8-week series for November and December. All are welcome; sign up with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).
- **Thursdays, Noon Zoom Bible Study**, noon to 12:30 p.m. Presently studying 1 Corinthians. Sign up with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

### Eli's Place Chapel

During November, our Bible memory verse is, "Taste and see that the Lord is good," Psalm 34:8. We are learning the *Gloria Patri* and the Lord's Prayer. Each week, we learn about different parts of the prayer Jesus taught.

### All Are Welcome--Calling All Grocery Sackers! Family Mission Project on Monday, November 11

Please come to People of Action Caring for Kids (P.A.C.K.) at 4 Mall Terrace from 11:00 a.m. to noon to sack groceries assembly-line style for needy children and youth. Please sign up in advance with Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net). All ages are welcome!



### Calling for Coats!

Please bring new jackets for refugee children, youth, and adults to the box in the Oliver Hall lobby. Most needed are teen boys' and girls' coats and women's medium and large coats.



### Refugee Families Need Strong Lifters for Y'All Hauls!

Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., come help lift sofas and beds into apartments for newly arriving refugee families. Please sign up in advance with Holly McCormick, 912-856-6982, or Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net). Also needed are twin beds, small dressers (the tall, narrow type with four or five drawers), kitchen trash cans with liners, lamps, and door mats.

### Thank You Fabulous Youth and Adults!

Thank you to all who helped with Youth Local Mission Day, held on Monday, October 14, while our students were out of school. Youth participants learned how to build an irrigation system from Pat Monahan and installed the system and planted collards and broccoli for veterans at the Cove at Dundee/Tiny House Project in the raised beds he led the youth in constructing in July. Then, we led worship at Old Savannah City Mission and served lunch there to 120 friends and neighbors, after sacking groceries for them donated by the church. We came back to church for sack lunches and then polished all the sanctuary pews, worked in the courtyard garden, weeded the playground camellia beds, and prayed together. Youth who came were: Christopher and James Butler, Michael Cooler, Cullen and Ryves Dunn, Madeleine Hall, Lucy Mac Hasselle, William Hauerwas, Elizabeth Huff, Lindly Mingledorff, Emma Mobley, Anna Owens, Ansley and Marshall Pedigo, Grayson Pennington, Harper Sortor, Ela Sykola, Adair and Palmer Thomas, and Andrew Wilkes. Adults who led were: Edmond Anderson, Peter Delves, Era Hall, Maggie Hatchett, Rusty Holt, Price Mingledorff, Sharlene and Pat Monahan, Christian Swails, Anne Thompson, Jim Waldrop, and Sam Youngblood. We could not manage without the fine adults who encourage our youth in Christian faith--and who learn from the youth, too.





## Wesley Gardens Retreat

Micah Sprunger, Retreat Director  
912-441-7578, [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com)  
[wesleygardensretreat.com](http://wesleygardensretreat.com)



### Commemorative Oak Saplings - Available This Fall

Stewardship of this magnificent property includes yearly removal of decayed trees and replanting young trees. Trees provide shade for retreatants during the hot summer months and are good for the environment. For anyone seeking to honor a loved one, commemorative trees are available.



- Live Oak or Bald Cypress Sapling - \$500
- Size: 4-5" diameter trunk, 15'-20' height
- Planting date: December 7-15, 2024
- Included: 4" x 6" custom stainless steel plaque and photos of your tree.

Donations can be made thru November 30. For more information or to initiate the gift process, please email [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com).

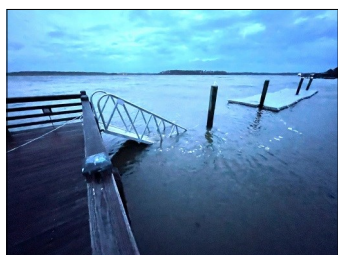
### Fourth Friday Prayer & Solitude Retreat

Are you craving set-apart time & space to connect with God? If so, you might find our FOURTH FRIDAY RETREAT meaningful. It's free and requires no previous retreat experience, offering a mix of solitude and time with Scripture (via Daily Office & Lectio Divina). You can shape the retreat as your soul is needing—we'll simply provide an optional framework. Spiritual Direction with a local pastor is available throughout. For those desiring a bit of caffeination before meditation, freshly roasted coffee will start pouring at 8:45 a.m., and the retreat thereafter from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Following the retreat, lunch is served at the pavilion for any who'd like to join! Friday, November 22. All weary souls welcome.

### Fourth Friday Artist Retreat

There is a new monthly collaboration with a favorite local artist, Allison Hall of Small Creative. Following our usual Fourth Friday retreat, lunch is offered and then Allison will guide a retreat for creatives—no cost, and all are welcome. (If you're a SCAD student and need a ride, please let us know.) The first of its kind will be Friday, November 22. Lunch is at 12:45, with the guided retreat 1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. "Structured time" ends at 3:00 p.m., but you're welcome to linger and continue creating on your own until sunset.

### A Few Recent Highlights...



+ Hurricane Helene brought roughly 15 trees down onto the driveway and trails and tore away part of the lower floating dock. A local dock builder was nearby who repaired our dock within a couple days of the storm. We are grateful to the Lord for no damage to buildings and His provisions.

+ A three day retreat by a regional African-American group was held as planned, the weekend after Helene. This group impressed us with their resilience and perspective as they continued the inner work of soul-care despite having no electricity or showers

+ Seven Wesley Monumental members came out and kindly dedicated time towards storm cleanup. Thank you for all the raking and chainsaw work!

Join  
US

### Weekly Spiritual Practices Gathering

For anyone interested in engaging their heart in deeper transformation and those looking for tools to walk out their faith, join Christian Swails from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons at Wesley Gardens Retreat. Everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!





## Music

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



### Children's Choir (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Every week during dinner prior to choir, we work on a local mission project specially curated by Rev. Nelle. Look at the origami angels they made for Mr. David Chow. All of the different designs they made were so creative, and we love that several of the angels had a hairstyle that included bangs. During Choir, the children have learned Since Jesus Came Into My Heart, I Am Bound for the Promised Land, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Zion's Walls, Hymn of Promise, Doxology, Gloria Patri, Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They have now begun rehearsals for the very exciting Nativity Pageant!

### Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 15, 11:00 AM

Mark your calendar for the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 featuring the Wesley Monumental Chancel Choir, Strings, Brass, and Timpani. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a traditional service of Christian worship that dates back to 1918. It traces the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in nine short Bible readings (Lessons) from the King James Version of the Bible, interspersed with the singing of Carols and Choir Anthems.



## Youth Ministry

Maggie Hatchett, Director of Student Ministries  
912-580-7553, [maggie@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:maggie@wesleymonumental.org)

This past month has been a fun one! For our regular Sunday evenings, our series has been "At the Table." We have talked about the times that Jesus has been at a table with people and how he treated them. We even made dinner, and all sat together at one table! Wednesday evenings have been a blast, learning about creation and covenant, and getting to spend time together. Our fall break weekend was filled with lots of fun and service. The middle schoolers went to Ottawa Farms to the World's Largest Bounce house. The high schoolers had a bonfire and played glow capture the flag. Then, on Monday, we had a service day with Nelle. We worked at the Veterans Tiny Homes in their garden, then led worship and served lunch at Old Savannah City Mission, and cleaned up the pews in the sanctuary. I love getting to know all of you and the youth at Wesley Monumental. I pray that we can continue to love and serve each other! **Important dates:** November 22-24 - Epworth Encounter Retreat - Sign up on church website! December 8 - Youth Christmas Party at Wesley Gardens Retreat! January 30 - February 2 - Youth Ski trip. Sign up available November 1.



## Wesley Meet & Mingle

### Join us for our January Meet and Mingle

Wesley Meet and Mingle is a new program that provides opportunities for Wesley members to spend some social time with other Wesley members they already know or want to meet. Tickets for the Ghost Pirates game (our **January Meet and Mingle** event) on January 5, 2025, will be available until December 5. Cost is \$30 per ticket. Your payment reserves your seat. Make checks payable to Wesley Monumental UMC and give them to Carolyn Hale Cubbedge or drop them off in the church office. Questions? Call Carolyn at 912-308-3385.





## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



### Second Grade Bible Presentation

