

December  
2024

Volume 73 Issue 12  
December 1, 2024

wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



## Life at Wesley



Joyful Noise Choir leading worship.



Friends singing Holy, Holy, Holy in church.



Youth & Adult Handbell Choirs in worship.



Wesley's Christmas Bazaar was held November 2 in Oliver Hall.



Sunday fun with our 4th & 5th graders!



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



Sergeant Marolyn Lou Hale speaking at the Veterans Day Breakfast.



Meet and Mingle low country boil.







## From Ben's Desk

Ben Martin, Senior Pastor

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

## December Already?

I don't know why I bother to say it, but I can't believe it is December already! Again? This year has been good but hectic here at Wesley Monumental UMC. The renovation of our Education Building has consumed so much of our time, attention, energy, and resources, but now we are finally finished (well, almost; the elevator will be a late spring or early summer additional project to work around).

But December is here, and Advent has arrived. With all the waiting and expectation of completion and preparation for moving back into our building we have been living with, we should be well prepared to practice the fundamental disciplines of Advent. The words for the season are waiting, expectation, and preparation. While the culture runs ahead to Christmas, we try to wait and embrace the power of expectation, and while we wait, we prepare our hearts to encounter once again the love of God in Christ, the Word made flesh and dwelling among us.

This Advent will be a season full of traditional offerings of worship and celebration. It is a unique and powerful season of the Christian year that takes us back in thankful memory and looks ahead in hopeful expectation. Some of the worship traditions we are preparing for are as follows:

The Sundays of Advent (December 1, 8, 15, 22)

December 7	9:00 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens- preparing the sanctuary for the season
December 15	11:00 a.m.	A Service of Lessons and Carols
	4:00 p.m.	Joyful Noise Christmas Programs (our youngest children's choir)
December 18	6:00 p.m.	Children's Nativity Pageant
December 22	12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Christmas Caroling for our homebound members
December 24	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Eve Communion service
	3:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion service (children-focused)
	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion service (with choir)



## Wesley Meet & Mingle

**Join us for our January Meet and Mingle - Deadline is December 5!**

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. Our next event is on January 5, when we will attend a Ghost Pirates game. Tickets for the game 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.



## Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

912-232-0191 Ext. 202, [carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com](mailto:carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com)



### Advent Devotional Book

The theme for this year's Advent emphasis is "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Our thanks to those who have shared their stories of God's faithfulness to them. Copies of the devotional book will be available at all entrances to the sanctuary on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. Feel free to share them with your friends.

### Merry Makers

Merry Makers, our senior adult fellowship group, will celebrate Christmas at Wesley Gardens Retreat on Monday, December 9, at 11:00 a.m. Brunch will be served, and participants are asked to bring their favorite Christmas goody to share. Please call the church office to make your reservation. Please feel free to invite a friend.





## Children's Ministry

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



There are lots of fun events planned for our children over the next few weeks.  
Be sure to put these dates on your calendar.



### Christmas Ornament Painting

On Sunday, December 1, 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 \$17 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 Baking Day for 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

On Saturday, December 7, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m. to bake Christmas treats for our families and friends. We'll bake several different kinds of cookies and then try making our own personal mini gingerbread house. Pick up from the playground at 4:30 p.m.



### Christmas Fun Day for Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Kindergarteners

On Saturday, December 14, 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](mailto:charli@wesleymonumental.org) with the time they will be arriving on the 14.

### 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 15**, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- ♦ The Nativity Pageant will be presented in the Sanctuary following Wednesday Night Supper on **December 18**, 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](mailto:charli@wesleymonumental.org).



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fun for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed lunch from Chipotle on Sunday, November 17. After lunch, they made Friendship Pillows for the children of Family Promise and had fun on the playground. Watch for information to sign up for our next event, a New Year's Retreat at Wesley Gardens on **Friday and Saturday, January 3-4, 2025**.



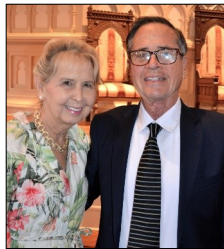


## Evangelism & Missions

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

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined the church in October. Our next New Member Course will be on Sundays, December 15 and 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the Oliver Hall lobby, with the class joining as a group on December 22. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



### **Charles Degenhardt, Jr.**

Charles is originally from Millen, GA, and moved to Savannah at age 14. His father and later he had the Krispy Kreme franchise for Savannah. He lives downtown and walks five miles early every morning. He and his shepherd, Marcia Thompson, are engaged to be married. *Shepherd: Marcia Thompson*



### **Amber & Derek Shearouse with daughter, Natalie Shearouse**

Rev. Martin baptized Natalie on the day the family joined. Both Amber and Derek grew up in Effingham County, and both now work at Gulfstream. Natalie is a 10th-grade student at Saint Vincent's Academy. She was a wonderful blessing throughout Youth Local Mission Week this summer with her joyful faith and hard work. She is trying out for tennis and is a Benedictine cheerleader. Grandparents, extended family, and friends all attended the exciting baptism of Natalie.

*Shepherds: Whitney & Michael Butler and Christopher & James Butler*

### **Join a Weekly Bible Study**

- ♦ "Parenting in the Bible"-Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., Young Mothers' Bible Study, nursery provided by fabulous Carmine Cowart and Del Muller.
- ♦ "All about Paul"-1 Corinthians-Thursdays, noon-12:30 p.m., via Zoom.

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



### **Urban Hope Christmas Supper, Monday, December 9**

Please sign up to cook at home and bring to Independent Presbyterian Church a part of the meal. Usually, we serve 75 guests. Needed are: ham, green beans, sweet potato souffle, salad, large and small plates, cutlery, napkins, cups, cut fruit, cookies, rolls, and butter. Please sign up with Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net. All ages are welcome to help serve. Please meet at Independent at 5:30 p.m.; the Urban Hope children and families will arrive at 6:00 p.m., and we usually finish clean-up by 7:30 p.m.



### **Katie & Mike Joyner, Jr., with children, Steele Anne Joyner, Michael Joyner, III, & Henry Joyner**

Mike grew up at Wesley, and Katie is from Asheboro, NC. She came to Savannah for graduate school and earned her master's degree in graphic design. She did all the photography for and was editor of the most recent Junior League of Savannah cookbook. Mike served in the Coast Guard and founded a company, Current Edge Solutions, five years ago and now has 70 employees in three states. Jennifer Baker introduced Katie and Mike. Their children attend Hancock Day School: Steele Anne is in 4th grade, and twins Michael and Henry are in first grade. Already the three Joyner children are in the children's choir with their shepherds.

*Shepherds: Amy & Sam Daniel*

*Children's Shepherds: Anna Wren & Harrison Daniel*



### **Ericka Stack**

Ericka is from Kennesaw, Georgia, where her parents and brother live. She is the new Children's and Music Ministry Assistant. Her husband, Caleb, is a paralegal at the Horne Law Firm. Prior to starting work at the church, the Stacks lived in Atlanta, where they both sang in the choir as section leaders at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church. Already, Ericka has started two handbell choirs at Wesley, one for youth and one for adults.

*Shepherd: Caleb Stack*

### **Urban Hope Prayer Partner Children's Wish Lists**

You are certainly not required, but if you want to buy 2 presents for your Urban Hope Prayer Partner child, please tell Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net. Please spend under \$50 total for 2 presents (one clothing item and one toy). Nelle has the children's sizes and their wish lists. Please bring the 2 wrapped presents clearly labeled with your Urban Hope child's name and your name to the Oliver Hall lobby on or before Wednesday, December 4. Questions? Nelle, 912-234-9245.





## Memorials & Honors *Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:*

**December 2024**

### Monumental Music

In memory of  
**Lois Wooten**  
**Betty Delfiaccio**  
**Suzette Fincher**  
From  
Madge & Joe Edwards

In memory of  
**Ann Lytle**  
From  
Madge & Joe Edwards  
Paul & Jane Pressly  
Linda & Cecil Barnes  
Marge Kane  
Carolyn Donovan  
Judy & Dan Bradley  
Susan & Dick Wallace  
Ethel Burriss  
Adrienne Tietz  
Steve & Barb Rudar  
Daniel & Joyce Majestic  
Helen Steward & Family  
Ken & Deanne Rimes  
Doreen Calhoun & family  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Solomons

In memory of  
**Lois Wooten**  
From  
Bob Langston

### The Endowment Fund

In memory of  
**Olin Bockes**  
From  
Care & Share

In memory of  
**Ann Lytle**  
From  
Care & Share

### The Capstone Project/ Building Fund

In memory of  
**Lois Wooten**  
**Ann Lytle**  
From  
Peggy Jolley  
Joanne & Will Faulk

In memory of  
**Ann Lytle**  
From  
An Anonymous Donor

In memory of  
**Al Braswell**  
From  
Dot & Penny Harper

In memory of  
**Anne Chaddock Donegan**  
**Bob Harmon**  
**Marilyn Holleman**  
**Edith Roszkowiak**  
From  
JoAnne Garcia-Melendez

In memory of  
**Bill McCorkle**  
From  
Ken & Deanne Rimes  
Frank & Florence Anderson  
Ethel Burriss  
Melvin & Ann Croft  
Mr. & Mrs. John Lientz  
Adrienne Tietz

### Eli's Place Scholarship Fund

In memory of  
**Traci Robbins Payne**  
From  
Dot & Penny Harper

### Music Endowment Fund

In memory of  
**Lois Wooten**  
From  
B.H. Levy

In memory of  
**Ann Lytle**  
From  
Dot & Penny Harper  
Courtney Gaines Circle  
JoAnne Garcia-Melendez

In honor of  
**Deanie Bell**  
**Bonnie Delves**  
**Harriet Bland**  
**Sandra McGowen**  
**Carolyn Roth**  
From  
JoAnne Garcia-Melendez

In memory of  
**Col. Robert E. Hite Jr.**  
From  
The Chancel Choir

In memory of  
**Bill McCorkle**  
From  
Andrew & Monica Dekle

In memory of  
**Betty Delfiaccio**  
From  
Jim & Karen Pannell

### Local Missions

In memory of  
**Bill McCorkle**  
From  
Anne & Thomas Thompson



## Sunday School News

### Connect Sunday School Class—New Study Starts in January —Join Us!

Connect Sunday School invites anyone looking for a small group study to join us on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. We are currently in an Advent Study, and in January, we will start a study of Hebrews with a book/video guide called *Better* by Jen Wilkin. Connect Sunday School is a small group of all ages, couples and singles, some with extensive Bible knowledge and some just starting their journey. We would love for you to join us any Sunday! We meet in the barrel-vaulted room in Oliver Hall, the first room to the right on the 2nd floor.



## Meaningful Marriage: Tools for Connection



### *Date Nights, Retreat, & Tools for Connection*

- Christian & Hannah Swails

Great news! Starting in the new year, we will host a series of date nights, once per month, for January, February, and March wrapping with a marriage retreat at Wesley Gardens.

The best part....wait for it....FREE CHILD CARE!!! Here's how it works:

#### Mark your Calendar right now for:

Saturday | January 25 | 4:30pm - 8:00pm

Saturday | February 22 | 4:30pm - 8:00pm

1. Come to the church
2. Drop off your kids
3. Christian & Hannah Swails give you some tools for connection
4. You leave for a romantic dinner (without kids)
5. You hopefully return for your children

Friday (Evening) & Saturday (All Day) | March 28, 29

Then, in March, we will move out to our stunning retreat center, Wesley Gardens, on the beautiful Moon River, at the best time of the year to be out there - For a Friday evening and Saturday (all day) Marriage retreat. Christian and Hannah will facilitate some tools and spiritual practices specifically for reconnecting with your spouse, your best friend.

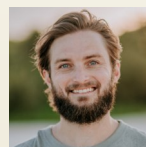
**FACT:** Life is hard - Kids are tough - and a meaningful Marriage takes practice & work.

Take advantage of this opportunity from your church community to come alongside you and tend to your most important relationship.

*\*No need to sign up, just mark your calendars now. Y'all know life is busy and the new year will crowd this out if you don't tell your schedules this matters.*

Your Spiritual Director,  
Christian

912-217-8646 phone,  
hello@cocreationlife.com



## Wesley Gardens Retreat

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

#### Fourth Friday Retreats

To give our team rest with family over the holidays, we will not be offering the Fourth Friday Prayer or Artist Retreat in December. We look forward to having you at either (or both) in January!

#### A Few Recent Highlights...

- + A group of creatives attended our debut Fourth Artist Retreat led by local painter Allison Hall.
- + Abbie hosted a couple of gatherings of newly resettled refugee families. We are so thankful to have this neutral space of beauty for such hospitality offerings.
- + A Savannah couple whose baby girl passed away soon after birth donated funds for a Live Oak to be planted next to the swings.



"Solitude well practiced will break the power of busyness, haste, isolation, and loneliness. You will see that the world is not on your shoulders after all. You will find yourself, and God will find you in new ways." - Dallas Willard

- + A twenty-person group retreat kindly pulled moss (in silence!) from our Camellia shrubs for two hours.
- + Micah, Phillip & Kyle began renovations to convert the Main House closet (next to the serving room) into a half-bath. This will provide a restroom for the common spaces, particularly useful for day retreats.





## Music

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

### 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 a.m., featuring the Wesley Monumental Chancel Choir, Youth 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.



First through fifth graders leading worship.



## Youth Ministry

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

This past month has been filled with low country boil, glow-in-the-dark capture the flag, humans versus zombies, and lots of learning. We have been learning from Elijah this past month about hope, trust, and the home God provides for us. Elijah has a profoundly relatable story, and the youth have been able to learn from it. On Wednesday evenings, we read stories from Genesis, with a focus on Abraham. The youth have been asking a lot of good questions and growing in their faith. We have had a few new volunteers joining us and would love to have you join us on Wednesday or Sunday Nights!

Upcoming dates:

- ◆ December 8—annual Christmas party at Wesley Gardens Retreat. Be sure to bring a white elephant gift (please, keep it under \$10).
- ◆ January 5—Ghost Pirates game to see the choir sing!
- ◆ January 30—February 2—Winter Retreat in Winter Place, WV. Find all of the info on the church website.



Youth helping and having fun at the Fall Festival at Wesley Gardens Retreat.





## Messenger Monthly Spotlight

### Fall Festival at Wesley Gardens

