

February
2025

Volume 74 Issue 2
February 2, 2025

wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



Wesley Choirs singing at the January Ghost Pirates game.



Three days before Christmas, over 50 chancel choir, youth choir, and friends caroled and gave communion to homebound church members.



Fourth and Fifth graders attending their New Year's Retreat at Wesley Gardens.



Wesley members visiting hospitals and nursing homes on Christmas morning.



Joyful Noise Choir Christmas Celebration



Wesley Youth ice skating at the Civic Center.



From Ben's Desk

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

The Feast of Love



Unless you are a really big NFL fan, the month of February brings to mind the feast of St. Valentine's Day, otherwise known as the Feast of Love. (The Super Bowl is February 9, by the way.) But saying I love football is pretty different than saying I love my wife. If it's not, you're in trouble. With the exception of Christmas and Easter, which you could argue are the definition of love ("For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son"), St. Valentine's Day should be one of the highest holy days in the church. The Christian faith is all about loving God and loving our neighbor. It's just that we throw the word love around in a lot of different ways. The original language in the Bible is a little more specific. In Hebrew scripture, the word most often used is "hesed," translated as steadfast love. Love and faithfulness go hand in hand. In the New Testament, we find the words "eros" (physical desire), "philia" (brotherly love or the love of friends), and "agape" (unconditional, sacrificial love).

For Jesus, love is more than an emotion or a feeling. To love one's enemies certainly must transcend feeling. While Jesus embodies love, and Paul has the most famous writing on love in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 13), 1 John probably talks more about love than any other book. February would be a good month to read that letter for our devotional time. *"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action....God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.... Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers and sisters are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen....."* His message is clear: love is embodied in how we treat one another.

As Methodists, our Wesleyan theology of grace is centered in the love of God in Christ and the call to love one another. At Wesley, we seek to model and share the love of God in Christ in everything we do. This month, a group of Wesley members are heading to Honduras to share the love of God in Christ by building houses for those who do not have a home. We also have another of our "Meaningful Marriage" teaching and Date nights. We hope you will join us as we continue to learn how to love together—Happy St. Valentine's Day.



Wesley Meet &



Meet and Mingle

The Meet and Mingle trip to Hope Ranch Zoo in Effingham County has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 8. Reservations are required. Please call the church office to sign up. The cost is \$20 per person. Children 2 and under are free. You will pay at the gate. Visit their Facebook page for lots of information about the zoo (search for Hope Ranch GVS)

or scan the code below to visit their website to learn more. Directions will be provided for all who sign up. Questions? See Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.

Scan the QR to visit the Hope Ranch Zoo website and learn more about the zoo.



Family Bingo Night

Family Bingo Night

Friday, February 28

6:00-7:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Join us Friday, February 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for our 3rd annual Family Bingo Night presented by the Susanna Wesley Circle. There will be dinner, dessert, bingo, a silent auction, and exciting prizes with proceeds benefitting charities within our community. Also, if you would like to donate a prize, or maybe a gift you received for Christmas that you may not have use for, please email swcirclewm@gmail.com or drop off in the church office. Scan the QR code for details and to register.





Children's Ministry

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

On Sunday mornings at Wesley, people are amused and amazed as the children tumble out of the pews to come forward for the Children's Sermon. Visitors cannot believe that a historic, traditional, downtown church like Wesley has so many families actively attending and participating in worship and other activities. With so many children, there is a great need for adults to serve in the Children's Ministry.

On Sunday mornings, we have four Sunday school classes, three or four classrooms open for children's worship, and the nursery welcomes 12-20 babies and toddlers each week. To provide a welcoming and safe environment and to comply with our Safe Sanctuaries policy each Sunday morning, we need 8-10 adults to help the children. No preparation is required. Your help is needed to hand out materials, pass out snacks, and ensure the children stay with the group as we move from one location to another. To sign up, text Charli at 912-547-3526 today.



As you begin to make plans for summer camps and vacations, be sure to reserve these weeks for
Vacation Bible School and Summer Fun Daze.

- June 2-6 Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon for children 3 years old - 5th grade
 - July 14-18 Summer Fun Daze from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for children who have completed K-3rd grade
- Registration for both events at myvbs.org/wesleymonumental



eli's Place

OPEN HOUSE
for the
2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Come and see what everyone is talking about!
Meet the teachers who make this place so great and
visit the newly renovated classrooms where it all happens.
Eli's Place is excited to show you what's in store for next school year!

Registration for current Eli's Place families will begin on **February 6, 2025**.
General registration for families not currently enrolled at Eli's Place will open on
February 28, 2025. Please submit your registration by the due date as our spots fill
quickly and we cannot guarantee spots for registrations returned after February 28.
Children on the waiting list will be placed in available openings and notified by email.

Please email us with any questions:
elisplacedirector@gmail.com





Wesley Gardens Retreat

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



Fourth Friday Retreats – February 28

Prayer & Solitude Retreat

Craving set apart time and space to connect with God? If so, you might find this 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 needs it—we'll simply provide an optional framework. Spiritual Direction with a local pastor is available throughout. For those desiring a bit of caffeine before meditation, freshly roasted coffee will start pouring at 8:45 a.m. in the Main House, and the retreat thereafter from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Following the retreat, lunch is served for any who'd like to join! Friday, February 28. All weary souls welcome.

Artist Retreat

There is a new monthly collaboration with a favorite local artist, Allison Hall of Small Creative. Following the Prayer & Solitude Retreat, lunch is provided, 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.) Lunch is served at 12:45 p.m. with the guided retreat from 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.



Spiritual Direction

Christian Swails, Wesley Gardens Spiritual Director
912-217-8646, hello@cocreationlife.com
cocreationlife.com, christianswails.com

Christian Swails is a trained Spiritual Director with a heart for nonjudgmental listening and self-discovery through conversation. This is a ministry from our church to you. We care about what's going on in your life. Your questions, doubts, fears, anger, joy, ideas about the future - they are welcome here. And we are honored to hold space for you to process them confidentially.

Christian can meet you at Wesley Gardens, Wesley Monumental Church, or over Zoom. Scan the QR code to schedule a chat. Peace to you in this new year.



Spiritual Direction 2025

Life is hard. The pace we are forced to move at in 2025 is not the pace of the soul. You may be interested in Spiritual Direction, if you are:

- ◆ feeling anxious
- ◆ dealing with conflict
- ◆ needing discernment
- ◆ holding big questions
- ◆ or just looking for someone to talk to about what's really going on inside



Youth Ministry

Maggie Hatchett, Director of Student Ministries
912-580-7553, maggie@wesleymonumental.org

December was filled with lots of fun for the youth! We had our annual Christmas party at Wesley Gardens Retreat, decorated the youth room, and went ice skating. In January, we dove into the book of James and talked about having integrity in all that we do this year and the future. In February, we will discuss the book of Ruth and the love story that unfolds. This year, I am working to help the youth (and myself) set goals and habits to grow closer to God and grow in our community. We will meet on Sunday evenings from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays after dinner from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. I know that school, sports, life, and all things are crazy, but I pray that our church can be a place of comfort and grounding for our youth during this season of their lives.



We have lots of activities coming up! Super Bowl party at Wesley Gardens on February 9 from 6:00 p.m. until halftime. Be sure to bring your favorite football snack! We will go to a Ghost Pirates Game on February 22, and the tickets are FREE! Be sure to sign up on the youth website. St. Patrick's Day will be here soon! We are having our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser again this year. It will help raise money for our Mission trip to Mexico this summer and our local mission week.





Memorials & Honors

February 2025

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

The Capstone Project/Building Fund

In memory of **Bill McCorkle**

From

Dick & Susan Wallace

Chuck & Ann Seyle

Ted & Linda Moore

Don Riddle & Carolyn Roth

In memory of

Elton Stuenkel

Erith Rozkowiak

Olin Bockes

Virginia Davis

From Alpha Sunday School Class

In memory of

Bill McCorkle

Joey Mayfield

Dan Bradley

From Adrienne Tietz

In memory of

Paul Tietz

Monica Cleaveland

Anne Chaddock Donegan

Bob Harmon

Virginia Davis

Lois Wooten

Ann Lytle

Bill McCorkle

Suzette Parker

From Pat & Sharlene Monahan

In Honor of **Nick Hitt's** leadership
on the Capstone Project

From Pat & Sharlene Monahan

In memory of **Dan Bradley**

From Martha & Joe Mathews

In memory of **Walter Sumner**

From Rosanne Montjoy

Music Endowment Fund

In memory of **Bill McCorkle**

From Peter & Shirley Roberts

In memory of

Dan Bradley

Ann Lytle

Bob Harmon

Anne Chaddock Donegan

Bill McCorkle

Virginia Davis

Courtney Fetz

From Honey Ryan

In Honor of **Glen & Jennifer Doki**

From Don Riddle & Carolyn Roth

In memory of **Dan Bradly**

From Don Riddle & Carolyn Roth

The Endowment Fund

In memory of **Bill McCorkle**

From

Cynthia Willett

Care & Share

In memory of **Steve Ernst**

From Ellison Lanier

In memory of **Bob Harmon**

From Ge-Juan Wilkes

In memory of **Dan Bradley**

From

Ora Smith

Nelle Smith

Walter Lewis

Paul & Jane Pressly

Sloan & Mary Elizabeth Evans

Mr & Mrs Francis Crockard Jr.

Robert & Alice Jepson

Sissy Levy

Mr & Mrs Eliot Stone

Connie & Glen Darbyshire

Laurie & Christopher Osteen

Ted & Linda Moore

Donna & Jody Traywick

Samuel McCachern

Jack Kingston

Andy & Alice Chisholm

Mr & Mrs Edwin H. Culver

Emily & Christopher Cay

Rob & Debra Ellis

Benjamin Levy

John Folts & Cynthia Warrick

Tim & Kathy Naish

Mac Nease

Joy Daniels Schwartz

Frederick L. Muller

T. Robin

Pascal & Jetta Boyd

Sara & Howard Gaines

Fremont & Lynn Wirth

Mr & Mrs Charles Henry Sipple IV

Jim & Karen Pannell

Cynthia Willett

Mr & Mrs Moore, Jr.

Lynn & Brian Foster

Dr & Mrs William Whitaker III

Sally & William Kehoe

Lesley & Cliff Dales

Margaret & Jim Robinson

Malisa & Deke Copenhaver

Nancy Dickens

Charles Jackson

Mrs. George Dana Sinkler

John & Lilaine Capron

Gayle Cummings

Richard & karon Meyer

Stewart Johnson

Beverley & Allan Reynolds

Dr. & Mrs. Morgan W. Murray

Mimi Jones

Dr. & Mrs. Clark Deriso

Mitchell & Millie Green

Local Missions

In memory of

Bill McCorkle

From

Jim & Karen Pannell

Robin & Ralph Davidson

Madge & Joe Edwards

Paul & Jane Pressly

Luther & Dot Gause

Mrs. Betty Louis Sheppard

Ge-Juan Wilkes

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of

Ann Lytle

From

Jane Shirah Circle

Monumental Music

In memory of

John Burton

Elaine Singletary

Ann Lytle

Marilyn Holleman

From

Alpha Sunday School Class

In memory of

Lois Wooten

Bill McCorkle

From

Lynne & Fred Bozeman

In memory of

Lois Wooten

Ann Lytle

From

Ge-Juan Wilkes

In memory of

Ann Lytle

From

Mandy Oswald

Connie & Glen Darbyshire

In memory of

Dan Bradley

From

Madge & Joe Edwards

Ken & Deanne Rimes

Carolyn Donovan

Johnny & Barbara Phelps

Mike & Mary Odom

Wesley Gardens Endowment

In Honor of

Glen & Jennifer Doki's

Wedding on 1/11/25

From

Honey Ryan

Ann & Melvin Croft



Evangelism & Missions

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

Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during December. Our February New Member Course will be on Sundays, February 16 and 23, at 10:00 a.m. both Sundays, with the class joining as a group on February 23. Nursery provided; come to both of this two-part series. Please call the church office to sign up at 912-232-0191.



Shelby and Braeden Scally with infant son, Cohen Kennedy Scally

Shelby is from Tupelo, MS, and Braeden is from New Zealand. They met while Shelby was on a study abroad program from Auburn University, where she completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture. Her husband is also an architect, and he did his undergraduate and graduate studies in New Zealand. This year, he started his own contractor business. Their son, Cohen, turned one in January and was baptized at Wesley on January 12. Their shepherds also have a baby son, Wiley, for whom Wesley members prayed for months while mother-to-be, Effie, was on bed rest. Thankfully, both boys are thriving.

Shepherds: Effie and Nic Allsbrooks; Cohen's shepherd, Wiley Carter Allsbrooks



Spring Tea Honoring New Members and Shepherds

Home of Laurel and Robert McCorkle, 514 Moon River Court, Saturday, February 22, from 1:00 p.m. –3:00 p.m. R.S.V.P. to Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net or 912-232-0191, by February 18.



Join a Bible Study in the New Year!



♦ **Young Mothers' Bible Study—"What Children Teach Us about God"**

Join us for this 8-week series during January and February. We meet on Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., on the second floor of Oliver Hall, with the Bible Buddies nursery provided by the fabulous Carmine Cowart and Del Muller. Questions or to sign up, please email Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

♦ **Thursday Noon Bible Study via Zoom—"All About Paul"**

Join us via Zoom on Thursdays from noon to 12:30 p.m. as we study 1 and 2 Corinthians. Questions or for the Zoom link, please email Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Refugee Ministry

When families arrive as refugees to Savannah, our church assists with driving parents and children to initial doctors' check-ups, setting up an apartment with furniture, and taking a family to a grocery for the first time. If you want to help with this ministry, please let Nelle or Holly McCormick, 912-856-6982, know so that Holly can notify you when needs arise. Recent families have come from Ukraine, Eritrea, Syria, and Sudan.

Pray for Missionaries in Honduras

Please pray for the team of church members who will travel to Santa Elena, Honduras, to serve children and to build homes: Scott Cleaveland, Jake Coakley, Jo Anne Garcia-Melendez, Lisa Gottwals, Rusty Holt, Pat and Sharlene Monahan, Jim Pannell, and Christian and Hannah Swails. They will be there from February 7-14.



Urban Hope Supper

Cooks needed to prepare a dish at home and to serve approximately 75 guests on Monday, February 24. Needed are: ham, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, green beans, salad and dressing, cut fruit, cookies, rolls, lemonade, cups, large and small plates, napkins, plastic cutlery. Please meet at Independent Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.; Urban Hope guests will arrive at 5 p.m., and we usually finish clean-up by 7:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.

Amen Handymen Do Minor Home Repairs for Seniors



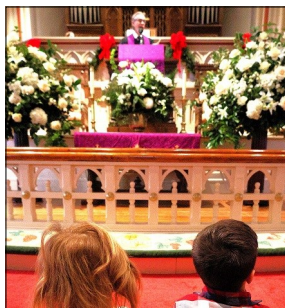
Need a leaky faucet fixed? Do you have a broken cabinet hinge? Please speak with Nelle Bordeaux, 912-232-0191, or tbordeaux@prodigy.net, if you want to help do repairs or if you need a minor home repair for senior members. Jon Boothe leads this ministry, and we thank Steve Eberhardt for his years of leading this ministry.



Music

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

Lessons & Carols 2024



Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Senior Adults & Pastoral Care
912-232-0191 Ext. 202, carolynhalecubbedge@gmail.com



Merry Makers Friendship Luncheon

The Merry Makers, Wesley's senior adult fellowship group, will celebrate its Friendship Luncheon on Monday, February 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor of Oliver Hall. Marcia Thompson will present the program. Lunch will be served. Reservations are needed. Call the church office to respond.



The Garden Club of Savannah's North of Gaston Street Garden Tour (NOGS) is scheduled for April 25 and 26. The theme: "Pieces of our lives and places of the heart," will feature gardens and stitched projects. With a legacy of 47 NOGS Tours, the 48th will also feature Oliver Hall and its parterre garden while our parlor will be the exhibit hall for the quilts and stitched projects. If you have family-treasured quilts or stitchery we could borrow for the exhibit, it would be appreciated and well-treated. Also, if you would like to volunteer to be a docent at the event, please contact us. For more information, please see the signup letter left in the church office or contact Era Hall: erahall@comcast.net



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



Nativity Pageant

