

March  
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wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER

## Life at Wesley



Twelve adults and five children or youth walked or ran 3.6 miles through the Historic District at the Wesley Community Center Love Walk, held on February 8.



Choral Scholar Lisa Gottwals leading music for 60 children in Honduras.



Wesley Monumental surrounded by snow on January 22, 2025.



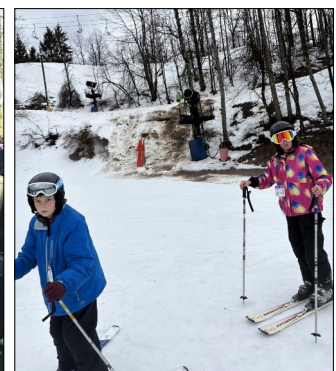
Wesley children enjoying playing in the snow while parents attend the Meaningful Marriage Retreat.



Youth attending their annual Winter Retreat at Winter Place, WV.



February Meet & Mingle at Hope Ranch Zoo.







## From Ben's Desk

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

## *Ash Wednesday Service*

*March 5, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary*

### LENT AGAIN?

I can't, for the life of me, figure out why we love Lent so much. Ash Wednesday and contemplating our mortality (because we are all in denial of death). Forty days of penitence and groveling in my guilt (because most of us do guilt and even shame pretty well). Forty days of fasting and self-denial (just what we all want, something to remind us of our weakness). Walking with Jesus down the sad road of the Via Dolorosa, "the way of sorrows" (remembering he died for my sin). Lent is a heavy season. Thank goodness it is only forty days. Forty days is, of course, a big Biblical number, but it is also long enough to change a habit and create a new one.

Maybe it's not that we love Lent, but rather we know that we need it. Maybe we recognize our vulnerability to self-indulgence. If nothing else, what Lent really amounts to is forty days of purpose. Forty days of paying attention to how sin works in my life and how undisciplined I can be. Forty days of stopping my rationalization, owning my weakness, and accepting my dependence on grace. Forty days to get me ready to celebrate resurrection and new life.

But remember, Lent is not about fasting alone. Fasting without feasting has no real purpose other than a little training in self-discipline. When we fast, we must replace that empty space with a spiritual practice that gives it spiritual purpose. So, give some prayerful thought to what it is I really need to take an intentional break from in order to give more attention to my spiritual life and what spiritual practice I can put in the place I created by my intentional break (fast).

Start Lent off right by joining us for our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5, at 6:15 p.m. May you have a holy Lent.



## Youth Ministry

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

We have had a great beginning to the year! We took 24 youth on Winter Retreat this year! We had such a great time skiing and getting to know each other better. We talked about how Momentum Matters in our walk with Christ, and if we can talk to our friends daily, we can talk with the Lord daily. We also had a Super Bowl party at the Gardens, which was a blast. A group of adults went on a mission trip to Honduras, and we got to help serve by helping pack up crafts and activities they were taking. We have so much to be thankful for, and I look forward to the rest of the year with these youth!



We will be meeting 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 continue to pray that our church can be a place of comfort and grounding for our youth during this season of their lives. We will be going to a Ghost Pirates Game on February 22, and tickets are FREE! St. Patrick's Day will be here soon! We are having our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser again this year. Be sure to sign up for both of these events on our website! It will help raise money for our Mission trip to Mexico this summer and our local mission week.





## Children's Ministry

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

### It's an exciting time to be a part of the Children's Ministry programs at Wesley Monumental!

We are settling into our new classrooms, and the children are beginning to know which one is "their" room - what a blessing to have tables and chairs that are the right size for our little people and to have a bathroom in each classroom. During Children's Worship, we have been able to paint some of our art activities because we can now wash our hands and brushes when we are finished. What a joy for everyone!



### In Bloom: Lunch & Learn for Moms

Come and enjoy lunch with other Wesley moms on Sunday, March 2, immediately following the 11:00 service. Mothers of children age 0 - 5th grade will gather in the fellowship hall for conversation, an update on our spring and summer opportunities, and a flower-arranging demonstration. Watch for an email invitation, and be sure to respond to let us know you are coming.

### It's Time to Register for Vacation Bible School and Summer Fun Daze!



At "Live It Out" VBS we'll be learning to love like Jesus and live out our faith every day. Registration is open for children of Wesley members and their extended family. Children 3-years-old (before May 1st) - 5th grade can register. Vacation Bible School will be June 2 - 6 at Wesley Gardens Retreat from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each day. To register, go to [www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental).

Summer Fun Daze is for children of Wesley members and their extended family who have completed Kindergarten - 3rd grade. It will be held at the Wesley Gardens Retreat the week of July 14 - 18. Monday - Wednesday, our camp day is from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. On Thursday, everyone stays for supper and movies, and 1st - 3rd graders spend the night. On Friday, camp ends with an art show at noon. The fee for Summer Fun Daze is \$100, and it is due on July 1. To register, go to [www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/wesleymonumental). After filling in the information requested, scroll to the bottom to register for Summer Fun Daze.



### Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events



- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| April 13   | Easter Eggstravaganza at Wesley Gardens Retreat, 4:00 p.m.   |
| April 30   | Easter Play following Wednesday Night Supper, 6:15 p.m.  |
| May 7      | Music Awards following Wednesday Night Supper, 6:15 p.m.   |
| May 11     | Infant Recognition during 11:00 service  |
| June 2-6   | Vacation Bible School at Wesley Gardens Retreat<br>(Registration open to Wesley members and extended family only.) |
| July 14-18 | Summer Fun Daze at Wesley Gardens Retreat<br>(Registration open to Wesley members and extended family only.)       |





## Evangelism & Missions

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



### Tonya & Bert Brantley & daughters, Kendall & Carson

Tonya and Bert met at the Baptist Student Union as college students, and they moved here from McDonough, Georgia, two years ago when Bert was named president of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce. Their shepherds invited them to church. Their daughters are students at the University of Georgia: Kendall just finished her undergraduate degree at UGA and is now working on a master's degree, and Carson is a third-year undergraduate. Both Kendall and Carson served at the church sacking groceries for needy families over their Christmas break. Tonya taught physical education and loves tennis and pickleball. *Shepherds: Laurel and Robert McCorkle, III, and Feriby and Robbie*



### Kinsey & Reed Ehrhardt & daughter, Ava Raye

Kinsey grew up in Macon, and Reed grew up in Alpharetta. They met at the University of Georgia. Reed is a civil engineer with Hussey Gay Bell. They like the traditional hymnals and music at Wesley. Their baby, Ava Raye, will be baptized March 9, and she was born in October. Dr. Joe Edwards, III, also joining in this group, delivered baby Ava Raye. The Ehrhardts especially enjoy spending time outdoors. *Shepherds: Savannah and Scott Rogers; Ava Raye's shepherds, Lily Costa & Scotty*



### Nancy and Dr. John Malone

The Malones moved to Savannah from Mount Airy, NC. John is an alumnus of Davidson College. He grew up Presbyterian, and Nancy grew up Methodist. He practices medicine as a neurologist with his shepherd, Dr. Gilmore MacGregor. Already Nancy is in the adult handbell choir and loves it. Nancy really enjoys music. They have two young adult children, Henry Malcolm Malone and Olivia Garland Malone. *Shepherds: Dr. Laura and Dr. Gilmore MacGregor and Hannah and Eliza*



### Ashley Wasielewski

Ashley has already participated in mission projects of serving supper to Urban Hope children and sacking groceries at People of Action Caring for Kids (PACK) alongside fellow church members. She moved to Savannah from Roswell, GA in June 2021. On the Sunday she joined, Rev. Ben Martin baptized Ashley, a joyful decision. She also participates in Wednesday night supper and Bible study. She particularly enjoys serving others. *Shepherd: Kara Mobley*

## Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during January. Our next New Member Course will be Sundays, March 23 and 30, at 9:45 a.m. both Sundays, with the class joining as a group on Sunday, March 30. Nursery provided. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



### Cindy and Dr. Joe Edwards, III

Three generations of the Edwards family are in the same pew at Wesley together every Sunday, and Dr. Joe Edwards, III, grew up at Wesley and was confirmed here and an acolyte while he was growing up here. Now he practices medicine, and Cindy's work is Sapelo Skin Care. They have two sons, Joe, IV, and Jack. It was so meaningful that all their shepherds are their family members, including Joe's parents, their son and his wife, and Dr. Joe Edwards, Jr.'s niece, Lenora, and her family. Their joining is a wonderful homecoming to Wesley.

*Shepherds: Madge & Dr. Joe Edwards, Jr.; Caroline & Jack Edwards; Lenora & Craig Buckley; James Buckley*



### Lisa Gottwals

Already Lisa is in the Chancel Choir, has been serving the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and has traveled on the church's February mission trip to Santa Elena, Honduras! She has two daughters, and her daughter, Stephanie, and her son-in-law, Adam, and grandchildren, Jordan and Haley, are her shepherds. Lisa has the joy of being able to rehearse and to sing every week with her daughter, Stephanie, in the Chancel Choir. Lisa loves music. She moved to Bluffton, SC, in February 2024 to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren.

*Shepherds: Stephanie and Adam Hess and Jordan and Haley Hess*



### Leney Roberts and son, Elijah Roberts

Leney is the daughter of Shirley and Peter Roberts. Leney studied in graduate school in social work at the University of Arkansas. She has played the cello and has written non-fiction. She works as the receptionist at Hunter Maclean. Her son, Elijah, is a first-grade student at Marshpoint Elementary School. Elijah is in the children's choir. Elijah's joyful outlook and his love for Jesus learned from his family and church family are a blessing to all who know him. "A little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). Elijah is the one who encouraged his mother to join the church, because he noticed how he and she signed on the attendance roster on a different side of the page from his grandparents. Already Leney and Elijah participate in Wednesday night supper and Bible study every week. *Shepherds: Shirley and Peter Roberts*





## Evangelism & Missions Cont.

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



### Join a Bible Study in March!



#### ♦ Young Mothers' Bible Study—New Topic Starts in March “Friendship in the Bible”

What does the Bible teach us about how to be a friend? Come to the Young Mothers' Bible Study for a new series starting March 4. 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. All are welcome.

#### ♦ 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 2 Corinthians. Questions or for the Zoom link, please email Nelle at tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



### Refugee Families Need Kroger Gift Cards and Tall Cabinets

For small apartments, the narrow, tall type of cabinet works better than a wide dresser or cabinet. Also needed are Kroger gift cards (any amount). Please drop off in the church office.



### Amen Handymen

If you have a leaky faucet or a broken hinge or a light bulb that needs to be changed, call Nelle, 912-232-0191. If you want to help do repairs for senior members, please tell Nelle, tbordeau x@prodigy.net. Minor home repairs are provided by Wesley's Amen Handymen. Jon Boothe leads this ministry. We extend our thanks to Steve Eberhardt for his years of leadership for this ministry.



### Day of Service for All Coastal District Churches Will Be Held Saturday, March 8 from 9 am to Noon

Join other United Methodist Church congregations from throughout the Coastal District in a Day of Service. We need 60 Wesley Monumental members in order to complete the project of sacking dry goods for 14,000 people. Please meet at Isle of Hope United Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m.; we'll finish at noon. Nursery provided for infants signed up in advance by March 1. Please sign up with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net, by March 1. Children in grade 1 and older are welcome to help sack dry goods.

## Honduras Mission Trip



While volunteering in Honduras, the Wesley mission team worshipped at Rio Lindo UMC in Rio Lindo.



Thank you to the Wesley Monumental congregation for 153 pairs of shoes for Honduran children.





## Wesley Gardens Retreat

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

### FOURTH FRIDAY RETREATS - MARCH 28

#### Morning Prayer & Solitude Retreat: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Craving time alone with God? If so, you might find this meaningful. There's no cost or need for previous retreat experience.

We'll begin in the Main House and provide an optional framework (via the Daily Office & Lectio Divina), but you can utilize the grounds and shape the morn as your soul needs. Micah's fresh roasted coffee will start pouring at 8:45 a.m., and spiritual direction with a local pastor will be available throughout the event.

**Homemade Lunch: 12:45 p.m.** (just give us a head's up so we have plenty of food)

#### Afternoon Creativity Retreat: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Our favorite Allison Hall of Small Creative guides this retreat for creatives. No cost or artistic experience is needed. (If you're a SCAD student and need a ride, please let us know.) "Structured creating" will end at 3:30 p.m., but any are welcome to linger through the afternoon until sunset. All weary souls welcome.



## 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)

### A FEW RECENT HIGHLIGHTS...

#### Welcome Gabrielle Lupacchino!

Gabrielle grew up at Wesley Monumental, sings in the Chancel Choir, and has a deep love of Wesley Gardens. We are thrilled to have Gabrielle working alongside Micah and the team, gardening, landscaping, making beds, cleaning, showing hospitality, etc.



## Free Childcare *when you attend* Meaningful Marriage *Tools for Connection*

**FIRST**, learn easy-to-implement tools for connection.  
**THEN**, enjoy free time with your spouse while our childcare team watches over your children.

Register online at  
[WesleyMonumental.org/Meaningful-Marriage](http://WesleyMonumental.org/Meaningful-Marriage)

*These events are freestanding; attend one event or both!*

**Date Night**  
Feb. 22

**Weekend Retreat**  
March 28 & 29



ESV translator and Bible scholar Dr. Scott Hafemann's annual pastor's retreat took place again this year. Based on something similar to what Charles Spurgeon

did, Scott began this retreat 37 years ago (the first 32 retreats were at Gordon-Conwell Seminary), an intimate, ten-day immersion into daily study, formation, and brotherhood.

The women of Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), recently finished up their five day retreat for military widows who flew in from around the country to seek healing in their grief. Through a deepening partnership with TAPS, we will be hosting their retreat 3-4 times in 2025!





## Music

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

We love having choristers singing in worship so often.



“Come before His presence with singing.  
Know ye that the Lord He is God.” Psalm 100:3



## Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

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

### Merry Makers March Program

Merry Makers, our senior adult fellowship, will meet on Monday, March 10, at 11:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall. Please note this change in time. Daniel Hughes of Jacksonville, FL, will be the presenter. He is an underwater photographer and will present a program on sea life using his own photographs. Lunch will be served following the program. Cost is \$7.00. Please call the church office to make your reservation.

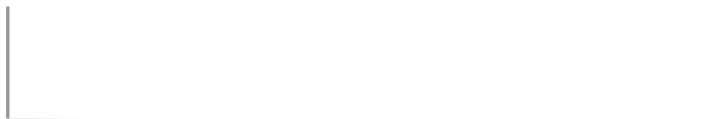


### Merry Makers February Program



Marcia Thompson was the guest speaker for the Merry Makers Valentine's Day Luncheon held February 10 in the Oliver Hall Parlor.





## Messenger Monthly Spotlight



### Honduras Mission Trip