

May  
2025

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wesleymonumental.org

# THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



## Life at Wesley



The adult and youth handbell choirs led worship on Sunday, March 23 for the glory of God!



Determined Chancel Choir members rehearsed Palm Sunday and Easter music in the dark during an unexpected power outage.



Amen Handymen put in a new door, replaced a rotted back section of the house, re-wired, built and anchored a wheelchair ramp, and replaced dry wall for Mrs. Kim Davis.



Immense thanks to Nick Hitt, Construction Ministry leader for the church, who completed two more homes after six years of work on the Cumming Street Family Promise homes.



Congratulations to our 30 Confirmants who joined the church this April! We are so proud of them and their choice to follow Jesus. Be sure to congratulate them whenever you see them.



## From Ben's Desk

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

## May Events



It seems the new year 2025 has just begun, yet I find myself writing for the May Messenger. Spring is flying by, and summer is right around the corner. Sometimes, I wish I could slow things down and enjoy it more, but it seems we are always planning for the next thing. In May, there are several special events we are planning to celebrate. On May 7, we will have our Children's Choir Music Awards and bring our Wednesday night program to a close until the fall (In June, we will begin our Sunday night dinner and worship program at Wesley Gardens Retreat). On May 11, we will celebrate Mother's Day and recognize all the new babies born in our congregation over the last year. Then, on May 18, we will recognize our graduates. We are fortunate to have so much to celebrate at Wesley Monumental. God has truly blessed us, and with that blessing comes the responsibility to be good stewards of our people.

One of the "good" challenges we will face in May (and June) is the renovation of our Education Building/ Sanctuary elevator. We will begin on May 20, and the renovation will take eight weeks to complete. During that time, we will move our 8:45 a.m. worship service into the Fellowship Hall so those who cannot climb the stairs to the sanctuary will have an in-person worship option for those eight weeks. The 11:00 a.m. service will remain in the sanctuary. We will also livestream the 11:00 service into the Fellowship Hall so those for whom the sanctuary will be inaccessible but who may want to come to Sunday school and stay to worship together downstairs. Thanks for your patience and understanding during this much-needed update on the elevator.



### Graduate Recognition and Senior Celebration!

Senior Celebration is coming up soon! On May 18, we will have a brunch for all graduating high school seniors. Please be sure to scan the QR code and fill out the form so we can know if you are coming and so we can have your name in the bulletin. We are so excited for you all! Also, if you have a college graduate, please email [jennifer@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:jennifer@wesleymonumental.org) so we can recognize them in the May 18 bulletin.



## Youth Ministry

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

Spring has been so sweet! We talked about Who God is and Numbers and how we can learn from the Israelites. We went to Wesley Gardens Retreat a few times and also went to Leopold's. Be sure to join us for our last normal Sunday of the spring on May 4 at the Gardens! We will be jumping off the dock, fishing, and getting ready for the summer! Be sure to bring your swimsuit and be ready for fun!



### We are looking forward to SUMMER!

On Sundays, we will be at Wesley Gardens and having FUN. Middle and High school will be hanging separately while we go out on the boats, have slip-n-slide wars, and field days! We will leave from the church after the 11:00 Service and then go straight to the Gardens. We will eat lunch and then get going. Be sure to scan the QR code and sign up for our first two weeks so we can prepare to have enough van space! Also make sure to sign up for volunteering with VBS! June 2-6 at Wesley Gardens from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.





## Children's Ministry

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



### Infant Recognition Sunday

Each year, on Mother's Day, we look forward to recognizing the babies born into our congregation, and this year is no exception! On Sunday, May 11 we will be honoring more than 15 families who welcomed babies into the world this past year. If you are a member of Wesley Monumental or attend regularly, please contact [charli@wesleymonumental.org](mailto:charli@wesleymonumental.org) to confirm we have your child on our list.



### VBS and Summer Fun Daze - Registration Closes Soon!

Last chance for Wesley members and their extended family members to register for Live It Out Vacation Bible School! Registration closes on Sunday, May 4. Registration for Summer Fun Daze will close on Sunday, June 1. You can register online for either or both activities at [www.myvbs.org/WesleyMonumental](http://www.myvbs.org/WesleyMonumental)



#### Age 3 months to 15 months

Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday  
9am until 1pm  
\$45 per week

All supplies and a snack are included.  
Children will need to bring their lunch.

#### Age 15 months through Pre-K

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9am until 1pm  
\$85 per week

All supplies and a snack are included.  
Children will need to bring their lunch.

#### Theme

Hawaii "Hang 10"

Fun with Food

Astronauts, Aliens & Outer Space

**NO CAMP**

Wild, Wild West

Christmas in July

Zoo Crew

Wacky Water Week

Colors and Rainbows

#### Dates

June 9 - 12

June 16 - 19

June 23 - 26

June 30 - July 3

July 7 - 10

July 14 - 17

July 21 - 24

July 28 - 31

August 4 - 7

#### Fees Due

May 30

May 30

May 30

June 13

June 13

June 13

July 11

July 11

Register for individual weeks or for all eight weeks. Registration forms are available in the nursery.

Return your completed form to Eli's Place or email it to [elissummercamp@gmail.com](mailto:elissummercamp@gmail.com).



## Evangelism & Missions

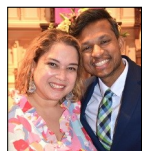
Nelle Bordeaux, Outreach & New Members  
912-234-9245, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net)



### Shay & Keith Bowen with son, Luke

Rev. Ben Martin baptized Luke, a 14-year-old student in the 8th grade at St. Andrews School, where he plays football, soccer, and basketball. The day he was baptized, Luke came to Sunday evening youth fellowship for the first time. Shay is an attorney and partner at Bouhan Falligant, where her Shepherd, Deanne Rimes, invited her to church after Luke wanted to come to church. Keith is the sales manager for ABB and is originally from LaGrange, GA, where they met while Shay was clerking for a federal judge.

*Shepherds: Deanne and Ken Rimes*



### Grace Sotomayor Mantri & Dipanjan Mantri

Grace was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Savannah, and Dipanjan is from Calcutta, India. She teaches Spanish at Calvary Day School, and he is a data analyst at Gulfstream. Their Shepherds served as missionaries in Spain with the same organization for which Grace served as a missionary in Poland, so the Swails family invited Grace and Dipanjan to the church. Already, they attend Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible study.

*Shepherds: Hannah & Christian Swails & Savy Joy Swails*



### Yard Crew Welcomes Helpers

Peter Delvers leads the yard crew at the Living Vine Christian Maternity Home, alternate Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. Please tell Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net), if you want to help. We are grateful to Don Riddle for his many years of leading this ministry.

### Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club Welcomes Tutors

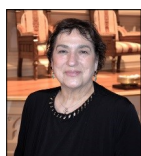
Bill Glenn is the ministry liaison to this organization, and church member Mark Lindsay is the executive director. Tutors to teach cursive writing are needed, and volunteers are welcome. Please speak with Bill, [bglenn56@gmail.com](mailto:bglenn56@gmail.com), if you want to help, or Nelle, [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

Other needs are:

- ♦ The best window for volunteer support is 4:30-6:30 p.m. (volunteers wouldn't need to stay the entire time.)
- ♦ Remainder of May: Although the kids will still be in school, they'll be past GMAS testing after early May, so there won't be as much homework. Volunteers are still welcome - Tuesdays through Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. is the usual window during the school year.
- ♦ Summer (starting June 2): The club will be open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The ideal time for volunteer activities is generally between 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- ♦ Types of volunteer opportunities: These include 1:1 tutoring, leading group activities in the gym or game room, reading stories to a group, or teaching a specific class. They could use up to ~20 volunteers at a time and place them throughout the club for a variety of activities.
- ♦ Age group: Volunteers would primarily work with kids ages 5-10. It's important to keep things engaging and interactive-attention spans can be short at this age!
- ♦ Cursive writing need: There's a significant need for cursive instruction, especially since it's no longer taught in schools. Even starting with helping students learn to write their names in cursive would be impactful. A volunteer could even run a class focused just on this.

### Welcome, New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during March. Our next New Member Course will be held Sundays, May 18 and June 1 at 9:45 a.m., with the class joining as a group on June 1. Please attend both parts of this two-part series. Nursery is provided. To sign up, please call the office at 912-232-0191.



### Lynn Sparling

Lynn is newly a widow, as her husband, Dean, died in February. She lives in Guyton and works as a behavior analyst, primarily through telehealth, caring for children with autism. Lynn enjoys gardening, history, and politics and grew up in the Northeast. Her daughter, Mary, and future son-in-law, Jason Kerzie, joined the church the same day she did. Already, Lynn is in the Thursday noon Bible study.

*Shepherd: Evonne Mobley*



### Mary Sparling & Jason Kerzie

Mary and Jason are engaged, and Rev. Ben Martin will officiate at their wedding on June 12. Mary is a certified nursing assistant and works in home health, inspired by how she and her mother cared for Mary's late father at home, as he wanted. Jason works at Gulfstream as a design engineer, and even though he and Dipanjan Mantri both work at Gulfstream, they met in the New Member Course! Jason likes woodworking and gardening, and Mary is an animal lover.

*Shepherds: Elane & Edd Finley*



## Meaningful Marriage Retreat

Christian Swails, Spiritual Direction  
912-217-8646, hello@cocreationlife.com

A delicious, rooftop sunset dinner downtown Savannah? Yes, please. Childcare provided? I'll take that too. Retreat at Wesley Gardens to stroll beautiful blooms or to fish on the dock? Count me in! Sound too good to be true? Well, many families would say it isn't because they experienced firsthand the generosity and care of this congregation and its staff through the Meaningful Marriage Series the last few months.



In short, each couple received one session in January and February with some practical tools to grow in their relationship, followed by free time to go out on a date. Then, in March, we hosted a dinner on Oliver Hall's lovely terrace, providing a retreat the next day to slow down and pursue each other.

But we'll let some families share their experience...



"The tools have been so helpful in connecting and aligning us so that we prioritize what matters. The meals were extraordinarily special (thank you enormously Suzanna and team) and the retreat allowed us to be present and intentional, which we often miss in the day-to-day. We loved spending the day at beautiful Wesley Gardens (breathtaking foliage & azaleas in bloom) a first for us that was truly JOYOUS. The balance of content, connection with each other and other couples, and space to just BE was perfect! This time away for us and your efforts made a profound impact on our marriage."

"We are so thankful...to connect with each other and be among other couples who have the same mindset of building strong relationships....The simplicity of having childcare with Ms. Charli and the wonderful teachers from Eli's Place made my heart so full and content knowing (my little girl) was in the best care!"



"These past few months have been rejuvenating and full of renewed connection for both of us. You've provided the most generous and thoughtful opportunities to pause, focus on each other, listen to God and deepen our connection. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."



Thank you to all who served these families, prayed for them, or made a financial contribution so that they could breathe for a moment and focus on such an important part of their lives.





## Wesley Gardens Retreat

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

### Gardening Volunteers Needed

Would you enjoy working outdoors in a prayerful environment? Individual or group volunteers are needed to help maintain the grounds and gardens. Tasks include pulling moss and weeds, raking leaves, trimming azaleas, and keeping the marsh edge clean. Email [micah@wesleygardensretreat.com](mailto:micah@wesleygardensretreat.com) for details.



### Fourth Friday Retreats: May 23

#### ♦ 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 Chapel and provide an optional framework (via the Daily Office and 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. in the gazebo, and spiritual direction with a local pastor will be available throughout. Feel free to pack a snack or lunch.

#### ♦ Afternoon Creativity Retreat: 1:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Our favorite Allison Hall of Small Creative guides this retreat for anyone wanting to explore their creativity. 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.

### A FEW RECENT HIGHLIGHTS...

Micah and Abbie hosted an afternoon of self-discovery for nine high school youth from around the Savannah area. Local pastor and spiritual director Mike Frazer and his wife Cheryl taught the 9 Enneagram personality "types," deepening the students understanding of how God has uniquely formed them.



Christian and Hannah Swails led several Wesley Monumental couples on a wonderful weekend retreat focusing on healthier marriages and soul care.

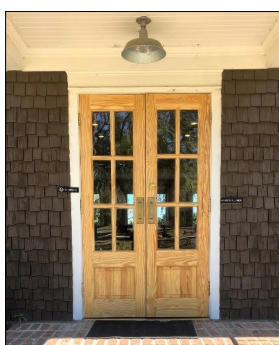


Sam Youngblood and his wife have been reclaiming part of the historic gardens, cutting back overgrown azaleas and removing vines. Thanks to you both for all your efforts!



The Main House has new doors! After several years of planning and construction, craftsman Don Theidt hung solid pine exterior doors on the stone patio entrance and riverside.

Before and After





## Music

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

“The children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.”



## Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

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



Thursday, May 1, 2025  
The Sanctuary will be open  
from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



## Merry Makers May Event

Merry Makers, our senior adult fellowship, will meet on Monday, May 12, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Susan Luke Evans will present “Mother, Mentors, and Miracles,” and we will honor all of our parents by sharing pictures of them. Please bring your pictures and be prepared to tell us about them. Lunch (\$7) will be served. Reservations are needed. Please call the church office. Questions? Call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



## Messenger Monthly

### Easter Egg-stravaganza at Wesley Gardens Retreat

