

September
2025

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wesleymonumental.org

THE MONUMENTAL MESSENGER



Life at Wesley



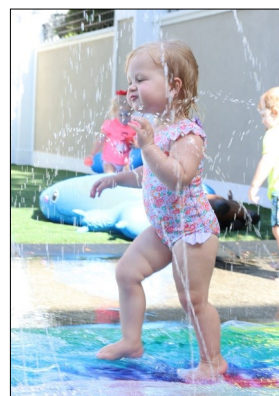
Our Brand-new, one-time-only Recorder Artist Choir quickly leveled up as they learned to play various songs during Recorder Karate at Wesley Gardens in July. The musicians, about 30 people of all ages, then treated the congregation to “When the Saints Go Marching In” for the opening voluntary during Wesley Gardens Worship.



Huge thanks to our 16 wonderful youth and their adult helpers who took part in Youth Local Mission Week, July 20-25. They completed outdoor projects at The Living Vine, made crafts with children at Urban Hope Summer Camp, served lunch to 120 friends and neighbors at Old Savannah City Mission, and more.



Our Eli's Place friends having fun during Wacky Water Week at Eli's Place Summer Camp!





From Ben's Desk

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

Wednesday Nights at Wesley

September marks our return to our school year programming schedule and the beginning of our mid-week dinner, Bible studies, Children's Choirs, and youth small groups. "Wednesday Night at Wesley" will resume on September 10. We have postponed the beginning by a week as we continue to make adjustments around the repair of our sanctuary and the limitation of space it creates for us.

The weekly habit of coming to church for fellowship and study in the middle of our week bridges the gap between Sundays and keeps us grounded in the middle of the hectic pace of our lives. While a week passes like the blink of an eye, spiritually speaking, it can be a long journey from Sunday to Sunday. Wednesday becomes like an oasis on a journey through the desert. One of the things that characterized the early church and contributed to the growth spiritually and numerically was how often they "gathered together" for fellowship, study, and worship. They recognized discipleship was a group effort and a daily activity. If you've never been a part of the Wednesday night program, we encourage you to give it a try. The food is great, the fellowship sweet, the study relevant, and the children's ministry exciting and meaningful. There is something for all ages to help strengthen our faith.

Dinner begins each week at 5:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., Children's Choirs and youth small groups meet, and a nursery is available for our youngest children. Monica and Ericka can help you get your children signed up for the program. The youth will have Wednesday night Bible Study. This year, we will offer a young women's small group and two adult studies from which to choose. Glen Doki will teach the spiritual classic *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. I will teach a short study on "Living as United Methodist Christians," followed by a Bible Study on the book of Jonah.

To sign up, visit wesleymonumental.org/wednesday-night or scan the code. We hope you will make Wednesday nights a part of your spiritual formation this year.



Music

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

Joyful Noise and Children's Choir Begin Wednesday, September 10!

Optional dinner at 5:15 p.m., choir from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Scan the QR to register. Register by Sunday, September 7.

♦ Joyful Noise Choir (3-year-old thru Kindergarten):

We have a joyful time together singing traditional hymns, playing hymns on colored bells, learning the basics of music-reading, and understanding basic theology in the hymns.

♦ Children's Choir (1st - 5th grade):

What a grand time we have singing traditional hymns and learning about the scripture that inspired them, playing hymns on hand chimes, and getting to know God better together. Older children have option for singing-intensive (two to three-part harmony) or chimes-intensive.

Register for Wednesday nights
online by Sunday, September 7!

Scan the QR code
to get started.





Children's Ministry

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



What do our children do during worship while the Sanctuary is being restored?



While the Sanctuary ceiling is being restored, children 3 years old - 5th grade are all welcome at Children's Worship. During this time, the children will *not* join the adults in the Fellowship Hall or at Mickve Israel.

8:45 Service

8:30-8:50 a.m. Drop off children in the Wayne Street foyer. An adult leader will greet children and take them upstairs.

After 8:50 a.m. Take children directly to the Children's Worship classroom. (Education Building, Second Floor, Room 207)

9:45 a.m. Children who are not staying to attend Sunday School may be picked up from Room 208 on the Second Floor of the Education building. All children staying for Sunday School continue with the schedule below.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Classrooms open.

10:00 a.m. Lessons begin.

10:45 a.m. Early service children are picked up from their Sunday School classrooms on the Second Floor of the Education Building. All children staying for 11 a.m. worship continue with the schedule below.

11:00 Service

10:45-11:05 a.m. Drop off 11 a.m. worship children in the Wayne Street foyer. An adult leader will greet children and take them upstairs.

11:05 a.m. Children go to the Third Floor of the Education Building for a short time of worship. Following this worship time, they return to their classrooms on the second floor for a snack and an activity.

After Worship Pick up continues to be from your child's classroom on the Second Floor of the Education Building.



Mark your calendars and watch for more information in the bulletin and online.

- Bible Presentation Sunday, September 21
- Family Movie Night at Wesley Gardens, Friday, October 10
- Third Sunday Fun for 4th & 5th Graders, Sunday, October 19
- Fall Festival at Wesley Gardens, Sunday, October 26, 4-6 p.m.
- Family Advent Festival, Sunday, November 9, 4-6 p.m.
- Third Sunday Fun for 4th & 5th Graders, November 16
- 4th & 5th Grade Winter Retreat, Friday-Saturday, January 2-3
- Vacation Bible School, June 1-5, 2026
- Summer Fun Daze, July 13-18, 2026

PROMOTION SUNDAY 2025





Evangelism & Missions

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

Welcome New Members!

We are thankful the following joined during July. Our September New Member Course will be Sundays, September 21 and 28 at 9:45 a.m., with the class joining as a group on September 28. Nursery is provided. Please call the church office to sign up, 912-232-0191.



Kristin and Paul Balducci with children, Bennett, Emma, and Jones

Kristin is a marketing manager for Marriott International, and Paul is the project director at VP Builders, handling construction for St. Joseph/Candler. Their older children, Bennett and Emma, are in kindergarten and prekindergarten, respectively, at St. Andrew's, and their youngest child, Jones, age two, attends Eli's Place. Their family first came to the church through Eli's Place. Paul and his Shepherd, Mehmet Ergul, are tennis partners.

Shepherds: Kimberly and Mehmet Ergul



Joanne and Jim Hubal

Already their Shepherds have brought the Hubals to the Ivy Sunday School Class. Both Joanne and Jim are retired special education teachers, and they are both from Minnesota (he from the Twin Cities, and she from Duluth). He previously was a broadcaster for 20 years. They adopted three children. Joanne is a writer and cartoonist, and she wrote the book, *Goodbye Old, Hello Bold*. The Hubals visited nursing home residents on Christmas morning as part of a Wesley mission project, and they even brought stuffed animals and jingle bells for the residents.

Shepherds: Judy and David Gelaude



Lorryn and Daniel Grady with children, Ethan, Declan, and Hazel

On Bring A Friend Sunday, the Hammocks invited their Wilmington Island neighbors, the Grady family, to worship. Daniel is from Wilmington, NC, and he and Lorryn met at a Methodist college, High Point University, in North Carolina. She is an ocean export manager for Page International, and he is a sales manager at Net Lock Inc. Their sons, Ethan and Declan, are in 5th grade and 2nd grade, respectively, at Marshpoint Elementary, and their daughter, Hazel, age one, attends Eli's Place.

Shepherds: Pam and James Hammock

Children's Shepherds: Trip and Bo June Hammock



Jimmy Thompson

During a rare snowstorm in Savannah earlier this year, Jimmy shoveled all around the church to make it safe for people to come to worship. He also just installed an irrigation system to water all the planters in the Oliver Hall courtyard garden at church. Jimmy is a widower and a Savannah native. He is a retired electrical contractor. He plays the harmonica in a band that performs at local nursing homes, and the other band members include Rev. Noel Cooper, Dr. Edwin Chase, and Barbara Jones. Jimmy has a grown son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Shepherd: Beth Kaufman



Fall into Bible Study

Tuesdays, Young Mothers' Bible Study

Starting a new topic, the book of Proverbs, 9-10 a.m., Oliver Hall parlor. Nursery provided by Del Muller, Becky West, and Sharlene Monahan, while Nelle teaches the mothers. All are welcome!

Thursdays, the book of Ephesians

Noon to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please speak with Nelle for the Zoom code.

Please sign up for either Bible study with Nelle, tbordeaux@prodigy.net.



Evangelism & Missions Cont.

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

A Tale of Two Mission Months

Report from Wesley member and
Mission on the Move volunteer Melinda Smith



"When I embarked on the adventure of a two month adventure with Mission on the Move in Honduras this summer, one of my primary questions coming into the entire experience was...will there be enough for me to do? Is there a need for what I have to offer? Two months is a long time. That's a lot of days to fill. And what I've discovered is that not only have my days been filled, they have been blessed and valued. Quite simply they have been life-changing. And in my tale of two months, June and July could not have been more different in terms of the work that I did and the benefit that I reaped from being here as a result of it.

June was all about the teams. I've shared with you the work done by these two teams. Every time I'm in or around the elementary school the fruits of the labors of those teams are still being enjoyed. Every day.

And then July came. And with it a week of summer vacation for students and a three week break between teams. And things began to look a bit uncertain for me here. What would be my work during this time? How would I contribute? Did I even need to stay?

And what I found was that while the work was different in July, it was as impactful, if not more, for me in this experience as running teams was in June.

The running of teams is administrative and logistical - making sure that teams are engaged in their work and that they have what they need to get that work done. The work that happened for me in July was connectional - engaging on a deeper, more personal level with the children at The Oaks, the students in the education program, and the adults that serve this program on a daily basis.



Sitting at the picnic table on the mission property, I talked with children about both their joys and their challenges of being in school. At the CCCC, I talked with the lead teacher about the importance of the work that she does with the children of this community that have special needs, and the pride she feels when her students go from her classroom to the local school classroom due to the progress in their development. I listened as our program director shared about the conversations she has with young women in the youth program. Conversations that aren't about books and learning but about being who God has created you to be - saying no to temptations all around you, challenging the expectations of those around you, and finding strength and comfort in adults around you that support you as you make hard choices.

Because of the school break, I also enjoyed field trips with the children at The Oaks. A trip to the local swimming pool where I comforted a child afraid of the water slide until he was able to take a deep breath and make the trip down the slide on my lap. A nature walk to a local lake where we enjoyed stone skipping, bird watching, and a charming conversation about how birds fly and what they're thinking when they do. And at the end of the week, I began to work with the staff and house parents at The Oaks to create a costume for the Dia Del Indio celebration at the school the following week. To be included in the preparation for this important cultural heritage event at the school and in the community was a true joy.

Throughout this experience, I have been led by a Bible verse that has held meaning for me throughout my life from the prophet Micah. "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Serving this community through the work of Mission on the Move has been not only a grand adventure - but also a profound and powerful spiritual experience that has changed my heart and brought me closer to God in ways that I could never have imagined.





Youth Ministry

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



This summer was such an amazing time of growth and fun, but we are so excited to get back to our normal fall activities! We will have Wednesday Nights, Sunday Nights, Sunday School, and Connect groups this fall! Please be sure to Join our BAND to keep up to date on what is happening.

- ♦ **Sunday Night:** A time where we gather for dinner, a lesson, and make space for worship. Middle and High will split for lessons and come back together for dinner.
- ♦ **Sunday School:** A space on Sunday mornings for the Middle and High schoolers to gather separately to talk about topics related to them and also to hear from different volunteers.
- ♦ **Connect group:** High School small groups that will meet before school and on Wednesday Nights! Be on the lookout for our different groups that are meeting.
- ♦ **Wednesday Night:** Dinner and Bible study for Middle School and Connect group for High School
- ♦ **Confirmation:** We will begin classes on January 4 during the Sunday School hour and go on a retreat March 6-8.

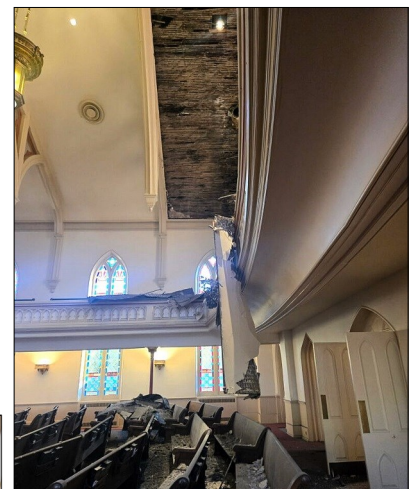
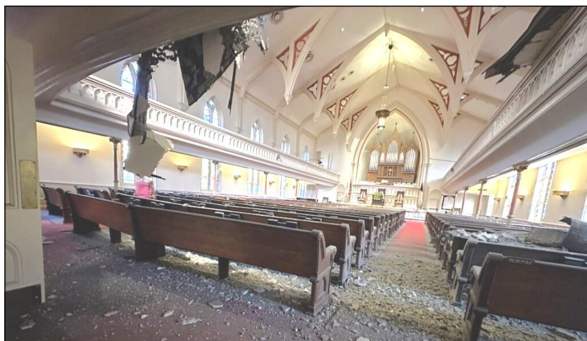
Want to help out with any of these programming options? Email Maggie, and she can help you get connected, maggie@wesleymonumental.org.



Sanctuary Ceiling

On the evening of Monday, July 21, a section of our sanctuary ceiling broke loose and fell, causing significant damage. Thankfully, nobody was in the sanctuary at the time. We are now engaged in the costly and time-consuming process of removing the entire sanctuary ceiling, including the damaged portion, and restoring the sanctuary.

While architects, engineers, and construction experts are still evaluating the space, the removal and repair process for the entire sanctuary ceiling is currently estimated to take several months.



**Temporary Sunday Morning
Worship Locations**
8:45 a.m. Worship Service
in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in
the synagogue sanctuary at
Congregation Mickve Israel

(The 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
is livestreamed in the Fellowship
Hall for those who prefer to stay
on the WMUMC campus.)



To learn more or to donate to our
Save Our Sanctuary Campaign,
please visit
wesleymonumental.org/repairs



Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

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



Methodist Women in Faith (Formerly United Methodist Women)

Wesley has five Methodist Women in Faith mission circles whose membership is open to all women who are interested in supporting the mission endeavors of our denomination. An insert with circle names, descriptions and meeting times will be in the church bulletin at the beginning of September. The only requirement for membership is your interest and willingness to participate. Questions? See or call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



It's Community Potluck Mix & Mingle Time Again

Our fall Community Potluck Mix and Mingle is scheduled for Sunday, September 28, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. If you

would like to host a gathering in your neighborhood, please see Carolyn Hale Cubbedge. Hosts will provide the gathering place and the tea and lemonade. The church will provide the paper goods and eating utensils. Participants will bring the food. The purpose of the gathering is simple: meet Wesley folks who live in your neighborhood and enjoy fellowship and great food. No offering will be taken--unless you want to contribute to the sanctuary ceiling repair! Questions? See or call Carolyn at 912-308-3385.

Merry Makers September Event

Merry Makers, Wesley's senior adult fellowship group, will resume monthly programs on September 10, at 11:30 a.m. at Wesley Gardens Retreat. The program will be presented by Sarah Labrot, artist and Wesley member. Sarah specializes in memory portraits of people and pets. Lunch will follow the program. Cost is \$7.00. Please call the church office to make your reservation. Questions? See or call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



Hurricane Preparedness and Emergency Contact Information

As the hurricane season becomes more active, it is time to prepare for potential evacuation. The Lunch and Learn session related to hurricane preparedness presented by Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge is available on the church's YouTube channel. A packet of information to go along with the presentation is available in the church office.

Emergency Contact information forms are also available in the church office. The church will gladly receive your information and hold it in confidence. It will only be used to aid you if needed. From a pastoral care stand-

point, the pastoral staff wants to assure that you have an evacuation plan in case it is needed. Questions? See or call Carolyn Hale Cubbedge at 912-308-3385.



Memorials & Honors

September 2025

Gifts have been received in Memory or Honor of:

Music Endowment Fund

In memory of
Richard "Dick" Wallace
From
Chloe Dekle

The Endowment Fund

In memory of
Cheryl Allen
From
Tim Mooney

The Capstone Project/Building Fund

In memory of
Rosaline B. & Robert M. Garbutt
From
Deane Donnigan



Messenger Monthly Spotlight



*Youth Local
Mission Week 2025*

