

# WESLEY MEMORIAL SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

## Senior Adult Ministries - 2023 Winter Happenings

### HAPPY NEW YEAR, FELLOW SENIOR FRIENDS OF WESLEY MEMORIAL!



I am Susan Sumpter, and I bring you greetings from your Senior Adult Council for 2023! I am honored and super-excited to serve as your ministry leader this year. Now... our age group may be called the "olders" of the church -- and personally, I prefer to be referred to as the "Wisdom Generation!" However, rest assured that Wesley Memorial Seniors are ALIVE IN GOD'S LOVE with energy, discipleship, active participation and plans for the future. Therefore, the Senior Adult Council is committed to building a VITAL MINISTRY for our older members. At last count, our members 60+ years totaled over 800 persons! Surprised?

The Senior Adult Council is planning events for 2023 based on 4 focus areas:

- \*Alzheimer's Mission Project
- \*Golden Helping Hands
- \*Sharing Our Faith Stories
- \*Fellowship Fun & Learning

### OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Senior Adult Ministry of Wesley Memorial exists to minister to the senior-age members of our church (ages 60+ years) by caring for their needs, and by connecting them with opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service.

We plan to mail a newsletter to you each quarter to give you updates on how everything is going and share the advance scoop on upcoming events. Enjoy this WINTER edition! You can also continue to find details in the Wesley Weekly (online email) and in Sunday worship bulletin announcements.

Should you want to attend a Senior Adult event but do not have transportation, PLEASE let me know or call the church office. We also welcome your adult children to bring you and stay on to participate in our events.

We Love You! We want to see YOU at Church!

Christ's Peace and Love,  
Susan

336-848-4128, or [susan.m.sumpter@gmail.com](mailto:susan.m.sumpter@gmail.com)



*"So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,  
until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come."  
(Psalm 71:18)*





**WON'T YOU OFFER YOUR GOLDEN HELPING HANDS?**  
**Short-Term Service Opportunities at our Church**

We are looking for Senior Adults at Wesley Memorial who would like to serve on a **"2023 Golden Helping Hands"** team. This team would be called upon as a "Ready Resource" for simple tasks that come up at our church and require extra help for the staff. Examples: stuffing letters or brochures into envelopes for a congregational mailing; filling luminary bags for the outdoor Nativity drive-thru; preparing take-home Ash Wednesday cups... to name just a few. **These service opportunities are perfect for retired, yet still active older adults.** The

tasks do not require planning meetings. Most tasks are done sitting down and completed in 1-2 hours with a group of friends. Each task is meaningful in fulfilling a true call for help from your church - - and the fun and laughter as the "Golden Hands" connect with one another around the work table is always a PLUS!

## Are you obligated to come help with every request?

Absolutely NOT! An email will be sent out by coordinator Lucille Duncan letting the Golden Helping Hands team know when the church needs our help, and the date/time to come. If you are available, that's GREAT! If you already have other plans, then wait for the next email request. Choose the service opportunities that are of interest to you and convenient for your schedule. Generally, there is about one request per month.

## How do you sign-up to be on the 2023 Golden Helping Hands?

Please give your name and contact information to Lucille Duncan,  
lbd48nc@gmail.com or call 336-882-1815 (can leave a message).



## Golden Helping Hands fill luminary bags for Nativity drive thru



## **“JOE’S STORY”**

THE SPIRITUAL BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH PHILLIP GAMBLE

### **Where were you BORN and RAISED?**

I was born in Guilford County on November 21, 1929. I was the “baby,” youngest of 8 children. Most were married when I was born. We were a musical family. Mom was the first organist (pump organ) at our church; Pop played guitar. All 8 kids were musical. We did music in the house and sang at church. Pop was in a Quartet that practiced in our parlor.

### **What led you to Wesley Memorial?**

Howard Coble. We were both students at Guilford College. He was 2 years ahead of me. We sang in the college choir and toured together. Then he went to work at Wesley Memorial. I received a degree in Public School Music at Guilford and took a different route to the church.

### **Do you have family at Wesley Memorial?**

Clark Gibson is my cousin. I am the “keeper” of our Family Tree. I have added the names over the years (onto my framed art-piece of our Family Tree) as each new baby has been born.

### **Where have you worked?**

My first job was 3 years at Beulah High School, north of Mt. Airy, NC. I went into every classroom teaching music, and I had a Chorus and a 7th Grade Homeroom. I was also the Spelling Teacher for the 7th Grade (my most “un-favorite” subject!) I led a Surry County Choral Concert of all the schools together.

In 1954, I was drafted into the US Army at Ft. Sam Houston. I served for 2 years and was in the Medical Corps. I was stationed in Germany and sang in the Chapel there. What a great opportunity to serve my country and travel to many parts of the world.

I returned home in 1956 to teach at Sumner School in Greensboro, NC. My next teaching job was at Trinity High School for 21 years; Assistant Principal for 10 years. It was here that I successfully explored every facet of my musical talent. I directed several musicals to sell-out audiences, such as “Fiddler On The Roof.” I remember the first day of integration in the schools occurred while I worked at Trinity.

I was approached by Archdale Friends Meeting to be their Minister of Music. I accepted this position and stayed doing this for 18 ½ years.



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### **What "drove" your work ... what was your PASSION?**

Teaching was so much more than a job. Connecting with the families and community is still one of my fondest memories. I keep in touch with many of my former students. I still contact the now 99 year old mother who raised 13 very successful children in that community. I loved working with children, encouraging them to grow in their talents. Watching them discover that they could sing, act, dance ... it was so rewarding.

### **What 2 people have influenced you the most?**

My mother and father (Mom and Pop). They were the perfect couple and parents. They never said a harsh word to anyone – not to their own children and not to anyone else.

### **Tell us about your faith journey.**

When I was a little boy, our family attended Church Revivals. At 10 years of age, I accepted Christ at a Revival Meeting at Centre Friends Meeting. Bascom Rollins was the minister. Bible verses were taught each Sunday throughout my childhood.

### **Do you have a favorite Bible verse?**

All of them! I guess I would say Psalms, because they remind me of music. The 100th Psalm especially speaks to me. And Psalm 121:1 (KJV) – "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

### **How do you find ways to serve in our church, in our community, and/or in the world?**

I have served on about every committee in the church. I led the Worship Committee, helped prepare choir budgets, directed choir performances, and became a Stephen Minister in 1997. I've been active with the Men of Wesley Memorial. I have served on 20 trips of the Building Team from our church, including missions to Acapulco (4 trips), Puerto Rica, South Africa, Mexico, and Frakes, Kentucky. One of my highlights with mission work involved a favorite fundraiser at Wesley Memorial. We sold bricks in the Narthex to get the funds to build a school in S. Africa. Our church came together and successfully raised those funds.

I have continued to be active in the ministries of our church. I have worked with Vacation Bible School, dressing in costume and acting the roles of Biblical characters. I have arranged flowers on the Sanctuary altar for worship services and for special celebrations: such as helping the children arrange flowers they brought from home for our annual Children's Sunday, and displays for the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent.

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# “JOE’S STORY” ... continued

THE SPIRITUAL BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH PHILLIP GAMBLE

**Has there been an event or occasion that occurred at Wesley Memorial that holds special memories for you?**

Yes. In 1981, I worked on the celebration for the 125th Anniversary of Wesley Memorial. I also fondly remember helping to set up the Dining Hall for worship services when our Sanctuary went under renovation - it was wonderful meeting there and we held Thayer Coggin’s funeral there. My 2 brass candlesticks were used on the altar during all of the construction.

I think about enjoying the beautiful Liturgical Dancing during worship under the direction of Jean Stockton that we don’t have anymore. I think about when Ivan Peden came to be our pastor, because it was such a transition for our church since he was from South Africa. Ivan and I became very close friends. And I remember when Joel Williams asked me to go on an Ashram for him. I went for 2 years and I directed the music there. We studied The Hound Of Heaven by Francis Thompson – it was very difficult reading. The spiritual leader was E. Stanley Jones.

**How would you like to be remembered?**

I think about my STUDENTS. I want to be remembered as giving my students opportunities to SUCCEED ... I believe I gave them opportunities that they would never have gotten otherwise. Many have become leaders in their churches – choir members, preachers, and supporters in many ways.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCH





# Alzheimer's Mission Project Update

The Alzheimer's Mission Project received primary focus in 2022 for the Senior Adults at Wesley Memorial Church.

We sponsored the "Autumn Lights" Prayer Vigil Event on Sunday, September 25 to pray for those afflicted with Alzheimer's, their caregivers and physicians, and those doing research into this dreaded disease. This is a very moving service -- especially as all attendees place a candle lit for their loved ones on the outdoor altar. We encourage anyone who hasn't been to our prayer vigil to be sure to attend the next event, scheduled for Fall 2023. We are grateful to our pastors for sharing their beautiful prayers.



Kay and I participated in the Guilford County "Walk To End Alzheimer's" on Saturday, October 15 at LeBauer Park in Greensboro. There were around 500 walkers present and Laney Pope of WXII TV was the emcee. Our own Kay Tucker was selected to be the "Purple Flower Presenter" representing persons who have lost a loved one to the disease. This was a great honor which Kay proudly undertook in memory of our own fathers, who both died of Alzheimer's Disease.

On Saturday, October 22, our Senior Adults held a second event – an on-campus "Community Walk" at Wesley Memorial to further our mission of awareness and fundraising for Alzheimer's and Dementia diseases. There were 3 courses that walkers could take: one the woodland trail beginning at the outdoor Chapel behind the church, one through the Prayer Labyrinth, and one around the perimeter of the church. Afterwards, we all placed our Alzheimer's pinwheel flowers along the Labyrinth walkway to "plant" a Promise Garden of Hope for the congregation to see on Sunday morning.

Our Alzheimer's mission project raised \$6,500 in 2022. Thank you for YOUR caring heart and generous contribution. We are proud to announce that over the last 4 years, "Team Wesley Memorial" has raised over \$32,000 to be contributed to the Guilford County Alzheimer's Association. These funds are directed toward research and development of

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# ...Alzheimer's Mission Project Update

of drugs to combat the disease, and funding for the 24/7 help line and educational materials for caregivers and families. Please know that your donation is making all this possible.

Perhaps you noticed, or even purchased, one of the Alzheimer's T-shirts that the Senior Adult Council had made this year. Each purple shirt is adorned with a flower logo, and a slogan that reads: "These Flowers have a lot of FIGHT in them." The fight is not over, and so the Senior Adults of Wesley Memorial faithfully pledge to continue the mission to raise awareness and funds. We plan to sell more shirts in 2023.

Thank you for standing with us. Together we are making progress toward the vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

**JERRY AND KAY TUCKER**  
**ALZHEIMER'S MISSION PROJECT COORDINATORS**





# ENJOY OUR WINTER SOCIALS

... JUST FOR SENIOR ADULTS 60+ YEARS!

## JANUARY

### Board Games and Line Dancing!

**Friday, January 27**

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Church Dining Hall & Fellowship Hall**

Come out and enjoy warm fellowship with your church friends as you play your favorite board games. Games provided. Line dancing starts at 3 pm! You can watch from your seat at the games table or jump up to participate! These will be SIMPLE dance routines for beginners taught by professional line dance instructor, Sandy Fuller. Event is FREE and includes plenty of snacks and prizes for EVERY game winner!

No rsvp required. Questions? Contact Bonnie Odom, 336-259-1941.

## FEBRUARY

### Popcorn and a MOVIE!

**Friday, February 24**

**1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Church Dining Hall**

Bring your slippers, afghans & pillows to create a cozy "nest" in your seat! Our feature film to be shown on the BIG SCREEN is "FATHER STU!" True story of Stu Long, the son of an abusive, mostly absent father (played by Mel Gibson) and a well-meaning but ineffectual mother (Jacki Weaver). Stu (played by Mark Wahlberg) becomes a boxer – but when he cannot fight anymore, he redirects his single-minded dedication to an even unlikelier goal – he decides to go to Hollywood to become a movie star. Following a very serious motorcycle accident, he realizes his true passion is a call to the priesthood. (PG 13 version)

No rsvp required. Questions? Contact Sue Browder, 252-903-3311.

