



The Wesley Volume 2, Issue 1

Wesley Foundation — P O Box 2345, Cullowhee, North Carolina



A Note from the Director

Greetings from the Wesley Foundation at Western Carolina University!

We are off and running this semester. We've laid a lot of good plans and have already had some great things happen. Thursday night Wheel Worship continues to average about 60 students each week. Meals have come from folks from Cullowhee UMC, Sylva UMC, and Canton Central UMC so far. It's so nice to have these folks come and share a meal and time with the students.

On January 23rd, seventeen students from Wesley lead the District Youth Event held in Franklin, NC. There were approximately 150 youth there. Both of our

Wesley bands played. They and other Wesley students lead the youth in several activities as well. Plans are being made now for one of the bands to play at a few area churches later in the semester.

In addition to that, we have formed a special bond with our District United Methodist Women. This past August we hosted the Annual District UMW meeting. Since then we have enjoyed going to share with different circles throughout the District. That will continue this semester as we already have already visited with two groups.

It has become tradition for Wesley to hold worship on

campus in the Illusions Night Club each spring semester. This spring's theme is "One Love, One Heart."

One special study we are holding this semester is an exploration of peace and justice. The study has been designed by a local retired clergy member. I will have the privilege to co-lead this group with him.

Our mission is to help college students have a place to gain relationships with Christ and each other through study, worship, fellowship, and service. I think we are well on our way this semester. Blessings!

—Jay Hinton

Wesley Golf Classic—April 16, 2011

In 2009 at the WCU Wesley Foundation Homecoming gathering there was a discussion regarding how the alumni could help support the Foundation in these economically challenging times. During that meeting, the Golf Classic idea resurfaced. This time Wesley alum Jeff Rainwater decided (or was coerced) to take the idea and work toward making it a

reality. A year and a half later; after many meetings with interested parties; the event will become a reality. I'm excited that people see the value of the work that is happening with students at Wesley. It's something you can't put a dollar sign on but it does take dollars to keep it going. We encourage folks who are alumni, parents of students, local business own-

ers, who want to honor a loved one, who are part of a Sunday school class or UMW/UMM group, or anyone who just wants to support Wesley Foundation's work on campus to consider being a sponsor or playing. Sponsor and team registration can be found at www.wcuwesley.com under the "news and information" tab.

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Alumni and students gather outside the Wesley Foundation at 2010's homecoming.

Mission Trips, Nashville and St. Vincent



Children in St. Vincent work two to a desk at school.

In his book "Red Letters" Tom Davis states, "Untouchables hold a very special place in God's Heart... And that's where we come in... What God cares about, we ought to care about."

During 2010 Nashville was the unfortunate recipient of flooding. According to the TN Conference of the UMC, approximately 41,000 households in 31 counties were affected. There are 3,000 families estimated needing long term assistance.

This was all we needed to know to decide that Nashville

would be the location of our 2011 Spring Break Mission trip. This trip has 16 members who are from the Wesley Foundation and Cullowhee UMC. As of this time we are uncertain of the work we will do but it will be either deconstruction or reconstruction of homes.

In 2008, I lead my first student mission team to rural Guatemala with my friend Sarah Smith. Now Sarah is in the Peace Corps and stationed at St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We talked a few times about how incredible it would be if we could bring students during her time there but

weren't sure if we could pull it off. Since then she has developed a literacy program with local children and has declared their library in a state of emergency. My response was to see if students wanted to help and without hesitation the answer was yes!

We will go to "Vincy" in May for 10 days. The students have had to pay a \$400 deposit and are working hard to raise the rest by a variety of means.

We'd gladly accept your contribution to help send these missionaries! You can send a donation to PO Box 3802 Cullowhee, NC 28723.

Meet the new band members

One area of our ministry that was especially busy last year was the praise band "Damascus Highway." In addition to playing each week at Wheel Worship, they played at youth events around the state, local churches, and the WNC Conference Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska. Because of the demanding pace, it was an unanimous decision that we needed to seek out some new band members for the upcoming school year and perhaps see

if we could start a second band. After much prayer and searching we were blessed with six new people who wanted to get involved. Soon practices began and growing pains were experienced. They have been playing every other week at Wheel Worship, have played at 2 youth events, and Sylva UMC.

Brandon Weiner is a radio production major from Charlotte, NC and plays bass for the band. He also plays the drums. Isaac Hinkey is from Raleigh, NC and

is a business major. He plays lead guitar. He also plays clarinet. Branden Betts from Charlotte is the drummer. He is a commercial and electronic music major. He also plays guitar and trombone. Ben Farmer is from Raleigh. He is another guitarist. He is a T.V. Production major. Corinne Minor is from Monroe, Ohio. She is a vocal performance major. The newest addition to the group is Mark Caudill who is from Hickory and is an art major. He plays guitar and sings.



Student, Briton Bennett, helps split firewood for a local community member.

Often we are approached by folks asking, "How can we help? What do you need?" I have to say, we are very glad that people care enough to ask! I also appreciate someone asking because the needs we have are large and diverse. Because of that, I thought I'd make a top 10 list of ways people can help.

1. Financial Aid! - We have over 125 students involved in one way or another. The Conference is not able to fund us like they used to. If you were to divide our budget by

that number, it would cost over \$600 a year per student.

2. Prepare a Thursday night meal and join us for worship.
3. Invite us to come talk with or play music for your group. Get to know some of the current students.
4. Come speak at Wesley about your experiences here.
5. Support a student in their mission efforts. This is above and beyond our annual budget needs.

6. Come to Homecoming.
7. Sponsor a hole at the Wesley Golf Classic.
8. Play in the Wesley Golf Classic.
9. Serve on the Wesley Board.
10. Ask your United Methodist Church Pastor to pay it's full apportionment to the WNC Conference. That directly affects our funding.
11. Pray for our outreach on campus. (I know, that's eleven!)

How Can I Help?

Student Spotlight—Molly Leikam



Hi. I'm Molly. I'm from Largo, Florida, near Tampa Bay. I

am a sophomore and I'm double majoring in Psychology and Social Work. I was originally planning on going to Asbury College in Kentucky, but that didn't work out, so I decided to look at colleges in North Carolina. I loved Western when I came to visit it and decided to move in with my dad who lives in Gastonia and

come to school here.

I found the Wesley Foundation at Western when my mom talked to Jay about it when we were here for orientation. At first, I wanted nothing to do with it because my mom was trying to make me go.

Then during One Crazy Week that Wesley does during the first week of fall semester, one of my friends asked if I wanted to go tubing with her. The Wesley Foundation was offering a trip to Deep Creek. I decided to go and haven't

left since!

I think the thing that definitely keeps me coming back to Wesley are the people. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly all time. That and the free food.

I think one of my favorite memories was the Green House Prom we had last year. Green House is a coffee house that Wesley holds a few times a semester based on a theme. Everyone broke out all their old prom clothes or went to the thrift store to get some. Seeing Sam McCarson in a

mullet wig and Manning Wimberly and Justin Cabe dance together after winning Prom King and Queen was hilarious!

I guess the one thing I'd like people to know about me that they probably don't is that I love jamming out to "Party In the USA" in my car.

(Molly started this semester as the Wesley Foundation Student Intern. She has already been a tremendous

Alumni Spotlight—Carrie Wright



I was a student at WCU from Fall 1995-Spring 1999. After graduating WCU, Clay and I married at Cullowhee UMC. We left straight from there to Dallas, Texas so I could attend Perkins school of Theology/Southern Methodist University. Since then we have been in Lexington, NC and Fort Mill, SC. I am ordained and working as a deacon in the United Methodist Church. Clay is a contract web developer. Our two children Eleana and Kaden (2, 3 yrs) keep things very lively in our house.

Cullowhee was a wonderful place to be in college then although we had to be very creative finding stuff to do. The first part of the student center was created while we were there and even though there wasn't much in it yet we were happy to have a fast food place to eat at! Even though it was a suitcase college during that time, we discovered a different life at the Wesley Foundation...a family of friends and church members at Cullowhee UMC showed us that the fun could be created within ourselves. We spent the weekends working the games selling drinks to make money for Wesley, bowling nights, dinners at our adoptive parents houses, hiking up to Water Rock Knob, and road trips for various retreats and mission projects. For me it didn't

seem necessary to run home each weekend after a while because we had such a great collection of friends to spend time with each weekend.

The mission trips we took were incredible opportunities for fellowship, hard work, and learning leadership. Part of our time also was wrapped up in the "Praise God Choir" in which we travelled around to district churches singing and sharing our faith. Those trips and the retreats we took plus just being together in the Wesley Foundation made such an impact on creating us who we are now.

Being a part of the Wesley Foundation gave me, and I think many of us that were there at that time, great relationships, leadership skills for the future, and a heart for

mission and active participation in the local church. I can't think of one person that was active in the Wesley Foundation at the time we were there who is not active in their church right now. I imagine holding on to that faith-filled understanding of church and worship that we learned from being involved in the Wesley Foundation and Cullowhee UMC.

My advice for current students is to remember that the most important things you do in college are not always related to the classes you take. Value this time in college – it's hard work but the memories you'll make and the laughter you share will remain with you forever.



CUMC

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Campus Impact Day

I just heard at a campus minister's meeting recently the following statement: "The trend for the generation of young people today is to not become a member or joiner." That was a statement that applied to not only school and civic organizations but also to church. I don't know about you but I'm not sure if I am a fan of that.

I realize young people want to make their involvement their own. I think it's been that way for a long time. That's one reason we are student lead with most of our programming. It gives students a chance to belong and "join" if you will. I hope you see that

as encouraging as I do.

Over the past year I have had conversations with students and other campus ministers at WCU about getting our students together for a day of service. At our most recent campus minister's meeting, we hashed out the details and came up with a plan.

On April 9th at 9:00am we will gather our students on the University Center Lawn for some breakfast, music, and a short message about who our neighbors are. From there the students will be broken

into work teams and sent out to a variety of projects on campus and in the local community.

At the end of the day, we will all gather at the pavilion near the WCU softball field for a cookout and reflection of the work that occurred. We are hopeful that this movement of love will stir students hearts. We hope they recognize who their neighbors are and will be encouraged to love on them regularly. Come join us if you are able!



The Wesley "Freshie" band plays the District Youth Event at Franklin in January 2011