



Furman Wesley Fellowship



Meaningful Journeys

I love the book, *Oh, the Places You Will Go!* I believe it says so much about the life that Christ calls us to live. I knew when I accepted this calling of ministry that I would travel to many awesome places. I knew that God would place challenging opportunities and fulfilling ventures in my path. However, I could have never imagined the blessings that I have felt from those associated with Furman Wesley Fellowship.

I am thankful each day for the Board Members and friends who give of their time and energy to help make our Wesley a true gift to our students. I am blessed by the gifts and prayers of the Greenville community, Furman University, and The United Methodist Church; your support is unwavering and unmatched. But, I am most grateful and humbled every day by the beautiful students who open their lives to me and allow me to walk

The end of this school year will mark the completion of my 10th year at Furman Wesley. This has been a journey that has taken me to the DH, the PDen, and the PAC – to Mississippi, Miami, DC, NOLA, NYC, and Honduras – to the highs of graduations and engagements – to the lows of exam stresses, failed relationships, and family deaths. *Oh, the Places You Will Go!*

It certainly has been quite the adventure, but the best thing about this place we call Furman Wesley is the people. If I have learned anything over this last decade it is this – the journey would not have been worth taking if I could not have taken it with others! I am appreciative of those who came before me to lay the foundation upon which we keep building.

alongside them. Every one of them has in big and small ways been a transformative presence in my life, and I am humbled by their love.

In the book of Hebrews, we are reminded of the Great Cloud of Witnesses that urge us along on our journey. My prayer is that our Wesley Fellowship can join the voices of these witnesses in order to provide a space for all to experience the love of Christ. I am excited for the future of our group, and excited to see all the wonderful *places* that we will go. May God bless the next 10 years of our ministry together.

Edward McCutcheon

Furman Wesley Campus Minister



Furman Wesley: A

Community for Life

There are a lot of reasons that I love and am thankful for Wesley. I have great friends, the retreats are a blessed relief from school life, and we have had one of the greatest campus ministers for ten whole years. But what really makes Wesley truly fulfilling is that it is a community where real life happens. There are lot of places where we don't want to bring in our baggage: classrooms, interviews, and that general small talk you have with that one girl you met freshman year who's name you just can't remember.

Unfortunately, I think many have the idea that real life also shouldn't be brought into the church/ministry setting. That those settings are for presenting yourself as the ideal Christian that has all their stuff together, with no worries in the world because of your perfect relationship with God. But in reality, we know that life rarely works out so seamlessly and that faith can be complicated, especially during the four years where you're supposedly meant to figure your life out.

This is why I need Wesley. It's a community where I know am safe to bring in all the mess and uncertainties that come with my life, and know that I am going to be welcomed and supported. Christ never intended us to travel through our faith walks alone. Our hearts long for community, and we all need a place where we can be authentic and honest about how our lives are going and where we are struggling. Wesley is a space where you can be honest about the ups and downs in your life, and then to have a whole community pray over those joys and concerns. Wesley is a community where life is meant to happen.

Abbey Hockett

Co-Facilitator



Honduras 2018:

Reflections Upon Mission

This past fall, I was somehow convinced by our Wesley leader Edward McCutcheon to go to Honduras. I knew nothing about the details of the trip, but between talks with Edward and Abbey Hockett, I was soon sure that Honduras would be absolutely life-changing. As January turned to February, then finally to March, I became more and more excited for the trip.

As our plane took off out of Atlanta, I couldn't help but wonder what was awaiting on the other side. San Pedro Sula was already incredibly different: there were hordes of people in the airport, many selling



That first night, I must admit I was incredibly overwhelmed. I wasn't sure if I had even made the right decision in coming to Honduras. The next day, though, I began to understand why I was called to come. That day, we went to our first children's home, Amor y Vida, a home for orphaned children that are also HIV positive. After a semi-awkward initial meeting, many of the children moved outside into the yard where we started playing. There were games of soccer, Uno, Jenga, and volleyball going on, and children running everywhere.

The next home we visited was Yo Quiero Ser. This home puts a lot of focus on encouraging the kids to become whatever they want to be, and it encourages them to follow their dreams. We spent the most time at Yo Quiero Ser, painting the nursery and playing with the kids. By the end of the second day there, we

souvenirs, but all speaking a foreign language. We all loaded our luggage onto a bus, and went to Abbey's favorite restaurant, Power Chicken. After a delicious meal of typical Honduran food like yucca fries, we started on the journey to our lodging in the countryside, Camp Jerusalem.

were all sad to leave our new friends, but since they gave us all a signed photo, we'll always have something to remember them by.

Elise Peeler



Finally, Thank You!

Our Wesley Fellowship operates by the support of three areas – our UMC apportionment dollars, Furman’s Religious Council, and the generous donations of our friends and families. Each year we are truly blessed by these

donations, and hope you will consider partnering with us in ministry to the students of Furman University. A few highlights of our year include: Weekly Gatherings, Retreats in the Fall and Spring, Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, SC Annual Conference Wesley Retreat, and Honduras Mission Trip.

If you would like to donate to help with mission opportunities, retreats, and gatherings, there are two options:

1. If you are a Furman alum, instead of offering a general alumni donation to Furman University you may specify toward which program you would like your donation applied. For Wesley, please indicate “Furman Wesley Fellowship.”
2. You can send your donation to our group directly. Please make your check to “Furman Wesley Fellowship” and mail to: Furman Wesley Fellowship, 3300 Poinsett Hwy, Greenville, SC 29613.



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