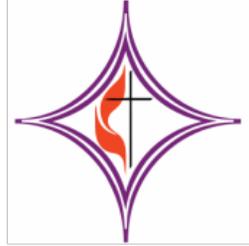


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Furman Wesley Fellowship



"Welcome to Wesley!"

It's such a simple phrase, but it's one that I find myself using more and



At Wesley meetings, I often raise the subject of Hospitality. I think the

more these days. Obviously, I want everyone to feel welcomed when they join us on Tuesday evenings in the Chapel, but what does it mean to be “welcomed?” What does it look like to “welcome others?”

We know the story of Mary and Joseph and their desperation to find a place for the Christ-child to be born. We know of the Innkeeper, and his words, “There is no room for you here!” We imagine the stable, the manger, and the animals who welcomed Jesus into the world on that special night.

As I reflect on this story of Christmas, I wonder how often our lives mirror that night. I imagine that often we look at our faith and Christ’s call on our lives with a similar response, “I don’t have room for that right now!” I envision moments of busyness in which our hearts are closed to the needs of those around us, and we shuffle these opportunities to the side much like the Innkeeper shuffled Mary and Joseph to the stable. However, Christ still comes! Love is born! Peace is present! Joy is among us! The good news of the Gospel story is that in spite of our failings, Christ comes to welcome us with open

most important thing we can do is be welcoming of others. It is important for people to know that when they come to Wesley, they will be accepted. We seek to be a place where, in spite of all that is happening on the campus, our students can find a warm, welcoming place to simply *be themselves*.

At the end of each Wesley gathering as we stand in a circle holding hands, we make sure there is a hole in the circle – and the question is asked, “*Why is there a hole?*” The answer: “The reasons for the hole are three-fold, because we are an open group, to leave room for those who cannot be here, and to leave room for Jesus!”

May we always have room in our group for everyone, and may we always have room in our hearts for Christ. May we live each day with a welcoming spirit. Welcome to Wesley!

Edward McCutcheon

Furman Wesley Campus Minister

arms.



A Word From the Co-

Facilitator...

This semester has been a great one at Wesley! We have carried on our traditional Tuesday nights, and we have been able to add some amazing freshman again this year. During that time, we have been blessed to have live music again this semester.

Outside of the normal Tuesday



Between all of the football games and studying we were able to make time one weekend and go on a retreat. We started off the weekend by volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity re-store, and spent the rest of the weekend having fun and being in fellowship. We capped off this semester with our annual Christmas party which was a fantastic time to relax and have fun before the start of exams.

nights we continued to get lunch together on Thursdays, which is always a nice boost to the day, and Edward has continued to fuel our Thursday afternoon studying with office hours at Starbucks. Another favorite tradition of mine is that once again we tailgated for the football games. I think this one of our more special events because we are one of the few groups outside of fraternities to always tailgate, and I believe it makes us special.



My Freshman

Experience

Like any typical college freshman, I came to Furman leaving all that I knew behind—my friends, my home, my family. The night before I left for college, I remember my nervous

Looking back this has been a fun filled semester, and I think the Spring will be just as good.

Parker Murphy
Co-Facilitator



mind but also my hopeful heart. I knew Furman University was the right place for me, and, as I quickly discovered, so was Furman Wesley.

I went to Wesley's freshman group the first week of classes. I somehow already felt behind in my homework, and I was feeling lonely. Thankfully, the freshman group, led by Edward and two amazing sophomores, Ben Wirzba and Mikayla Miley, was like a breath of fresh air. We talked about our problems; we talked about our blessings, and we grew together in the fellowship with Christ.

After going to the freshman group, I started attending the main Wesley service on Tuesday nights. There, I met new friends from different classes, and we worshipped together as a group. I was no longer a lonely freshman; I was surrounded by a community who truly showed the love of the Lord.

My favorite Wesley tradition is the tailgate before every home football game. There's nothing better than Chick-fi-la, football, and friends.

From the fall retreat in the North Carolina mountains to the annual Christmas party and spontaneous trips to Cook Out, Wesley has also been really fun. My friends from Wesley helped me slow down and enjoy being a freshman because we all know college flies by.

I am so thankful I decided to join Wesley. Even though I've only been a Furman student for a semester, Wesley has provided me a home away from home.

Katie Wooten



Celebrating Wesley

A Senior's Reflection

I arrived late to the Wesley party.

At the time, I was a newly-minted Junior who'd spent half of his undergraduate career drifting from one campus organization to the another. Not that I consider those two years to be wasted time, you understand. I am thankful for the time I spent in each of those places, for I always found people to love and meaningful work to do.

Wesley struck a particular chord with me, though. It was different, and the question of just what made it so occupied me for some time. When I describe my first trip to Wesley these



Nor is Wesley hidden from the world. Whether I'm handing out coffee and donuts to Furman students racked by finals anxiety or lending a helping hand to the good folks at Habitat for Humanity, being a part of Wesley has given me the valuable opportunity to put my faith into action. The joy of doing the Lord's work, surrounded by such an enviable collection of friendly folks, is, I now believe, that mysterious "X-factor" that has made Wesley an essential part of my life, a hunger that none of my previous pursuits were quite able to satisfy.

That's a party I never intend to leave.

days, I like to say I discovered where all the friendliest people on campus had been hiding, but that's really only half true. There's nothing "hidden" about Wesley. When we gather each week for our time of fellowship, the social pretensions that govern our day-to-day interactions fade; rare indeed is the place where I feel as free to be honest and vulnerable.

Thomas Stubbs

Secretary



Still to Come...

Mission to Honduras

This coming spring break we have the awesome privilege of travelling to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. We will be partnering with Carolina Cross Connection, an organization based in western North Carolina that has several ministries working in local home repair, homeless outreach, and overseas missions to Honduras. I have personally been to Honduras



I think that many come to San Pedro Sula with the idea that they're going to show the kids what Christ looks like, but come to find that these kids know Christ very well indeed.

Despite language barriers, we are still able to connect with these kids and learn from them, experiencing the type of love I think Christ had always wished for us to receive. This is probably my favorite place in the

four times with CCC, and it has become a second home to me.

CCC Overseas focuses on providing maintenance repairs and relationship opportunities for several orphanages, with whom the CCC has been partnering for the past six years. We'll spend the majority of our time hanging out with the children and teenagers, experiencing Honduran culture and food. Oh the baleadas!

world, and I'm beyond excited to share it with my Wesley family.

Abbey Hockett

Co-Facilitator



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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