



The Flame

Volume: 54, Issue 2

Spring 2020



Congrats to our Seniors!



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2019 Development Results:

Total Alumni Giving: \$27,107.16 + \$9,070.75 (Wesley 23) = \$36,177.91 (Typical: \$32,900)

Total Giving: \$52,502.16 (Typical: \$46,700)

Total Budget: \$107,184.64 (Including Tyndall and Calhoun Endowment Proceeds totaling \$18,927.00)

Total Expenses: \$102,268.4

2020 Update through 4/30:

Alumni Giving: \$7,694.17 + \$3,662.72 (Wesley 23) = \$11,356.89 (Typical: \$5,300)

Total Giving: \$12,272.09 (Typical: \$12,300)

Total Receipts: \$39,797.87 (Including Tyndall and Calhoun Endowment Proceeds totaling \$19,066.00)

Total Expenses: \$32,761.13

New CMT

Abigail Hickman: 2020-2021 SCM

Wesley has had a smooth transition from the 2019-2020 Core Ministry Team to the new 2020-2021 Team this spring, despite Virginia Tech going virtual. We have been able to work efficiently together in weekly Zoom meetings as in person communication is no longer feasible. Wesley as a whole has not lacked communication or community in this time, and is still proactively creating new ways to keep meaningful and spiritual connection while staying at home.

In a recent meeting, CMT was able to discuss our specific “balconies” and “basements” to our Clifton strengths. When analyzing the team’s strengths together, we realized how impactful they all functioned in this transition to online connections within ministry. Many of us involved in the Core Ministry Team have strengths involved with learning, individualization, problem solving, analyzing and restoring.

The discernment process was long and hard, but clearly filled with grace and intention. We are very grateful for their constant prayer and considerations in forming this team, without knowing about the shocking transition to come. Even when team-building has to be done over Zoom calls, rather than getting to know each other in person, the new CMT has been able to connect, work together effortlessly, and give hope to each other in a time of uncertainty.

Wesley students have been active in different group chats, communities of grace, live worship zooms, and more, which has created a lot of hope and connection during this time.

CMT is looking forward to serving in leadership this year, and we are thankful for the awesome community that is readily involved!

CMT: 2020-2021

Student Campus Minister:

Abigail Hickman

Discipleship Minister: Matthew Shealy

Fellowship Minister: Johnathan Arner

Missions Minister: Lydia Stonerook

Outreach Minister: Andy Lowe

Worship Minister: Emily Anne



Sports

Nolan Englund

Even though the spring semester was cut short, we were still able to have fun playing intramural inner-tube water polo throughout the month of February.

This semester, Wesley was able to field both a men’s and a corec team. Both teams qualified for the playoffs at the end of the season. Although we

did not win the championship, all of our players were able to enjoy our time in the pool.

Our corec team finished third overall in the competitive league, with a total of thirty goals for the season. “Bret’s Beard”, our men’s team, had total of twenty goals for the season.



New Student Bio: Savannah Greene

Tell me about yourself. What is your major?

I am a rising sophomore majoring in Marketing Management, with a concentration in Digital Marketing Strategy, which is essentially the study of marketing analytics, consumer behavior, price and product management, and communications. I am also minoring in International Business.

How did you hear about Wesley?

I heard about Wesley at the organization showcase during my orientation. I didn't think too much of it at the time, because I didn't believe I wanted to join a religious organization. The first day I was here for fall semester, Matthew and Rosie showed up at my dorm door and invited me to the Wesley cookout, and I thought "Oh! It's that Methodist group! Might as well check it out!" I'm super glad I did.

Why did you stay at Wesley?

I stayed at Wesley because I feel a sense of community. I've found Wesley members are really great at making an effort to talk to people, and they do it genuinely; you feel welcomed and cared for. I think that's especially important with new, potential Wesley folks, as I feel it can be really easy for newcomers of organizations to feel lost in the crowd. I didn't feel that way at Wesley. The values and mission Wesley embodies, especially with such passion and

commitment, is something I found very special, and I knew I wanted to be a part of that.

Do you spend a lot of time at Wesley?

I spend a moderate amount of time at Wesley, but I'm planning on being there more next year! I found I'd come to the building for events, CoGs, and meetings, but not to study or to just hang out.



Where are you from? Did you go to church before?

I'm from Lawrenceville, Virginia. I grew up going to Matthews Chapel UMC, which is the church my mom grew up in, too. I started regularly going

to First Presbyterian Church with my dad when I was 9 or so, and I went there until I started college.

What have you been involved in at Wesley?

I've been involved with Freshman CoG, Outreach Team, and Discernment Team this year, plus the additional fun Wesley gatherings of worship, family dinners, the youth retreats, clean-up day, etc.

What has been your favorite thing so far? Why?

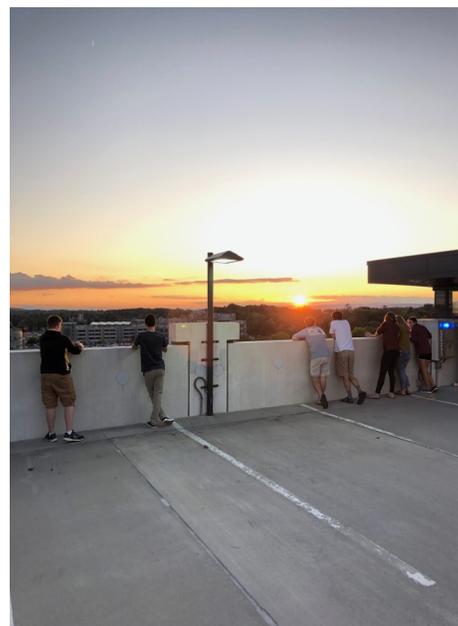
I think I'd pick Spring Break; I've never been on a mission trip before, so this was a spectacular first! Learning from those we served and accomplishing work as a team was very rewarding. I loved being able to openly reflect and ask questions in small groups and on various car rides to and from relational work. I had a brilliant work site team, amazing bunk mates, an awesome small group, and a fantastic time with everyone I did relational work with! I loved being with everyone on our free day, and when we got some unexpected news, we were there for each other. After a 14 hour car trip (that never experienced a dull moment) and arriving back at the wonderful home base of Wesley, I felt confident that we'd thrive through the next couple of months, no matter how hard it would be. I think we've done a pretty great job so far, and we've done it together. That's what makes Wesley so great.

Spring COGs

Charles Given

Wesley's seven Communities of Grace (CoGs) met throughout the week this semester to grow together in our small group ministry. CoGs continued to build intentional community by growing in faith with one another. Each of the CoG leaders planned and led their groups in different and unique ways, focusing on spiritual growth and how we can apply our faith to our everyday lives as college students, while living in covenant with one another. CoG's occasionally took field trips to build fellowship at dining halls or ice cream shops, or to see God's beauty at sunset on top of a parking garage. We continued our LGBTQ+ and Freshmen Affinity CoGs this semester

. Our newly-formed Spiritual Formation partnership ministry also officially started this spring as a part of our Discipleship Ministry. We had over 10 partnerships meeting together one-on-one to disciple one another and grow in faith while sharing accountability, prayer concerns and joys, and building strong relationships. We are so thankful to our awesome CoG leaders this semester and are looking forward to growing our CoGs and Spiritual Formations partnerships next year.



Worship

Kaitlyn Gallagher

While worship services this semester have looked a little different, our weekly Wednesday Foundations services have continued without a hitch!

We started the Spring semester with sermon series such as the “BEatitudes,” where we discussed the scripture of the Beatitudes and the ideas of being beloved, belonging, and belief. We had student testimonies and our annual “Plugged In” event during this three-week series! It was awesome to hear other student’s perspectives and welcome new students into the ministry. This was followed by our “Asking for a Friend” series, through which we asked difficult questions like “who is God?” and discussed the Trinity. We had lots of student involvement through group discussions, and Matthew Shealy, the new



Discipleship Minister, also preached a sermon during this series!

Following these topics, we began the series “Essentialism,” where we talked about priorities and learning the importance of quality over quantity. This was great to hear around Ash Wednesday as we discussed the idea and purpose of letting go and beginning anew. During this time, the Wesley community led two youth retreats,



where we discussed God’s vision for us, our community, and our world. I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention our band who worked so hard during this period and devoted so much time and love to help us worship.

After Spring Break, our services moved online to a podcast format. The new Worship Minister, Emily Anne, has been leading the Worship

Team with grace and patience during this new transition. I feel so blessed to witness her leadership and to see how the Worship Team is actively participating in meetings to maintain a sense of normalcy during the pandemic. They have planned podcasts talking about the church and the LGBTQ+ community, mental health during uncertain times, Easter, Earth Day, and just staying connected in the Wesley community (and including student interviews in these sermons, too)!

Finally, we held Senior Worship. Worship Team, the new CMT, and the Wesley community as a whole worked so diligently to give our seniors a proper send off! As a senior myself, I have never felt so loved than during that service. The service was a great closing chapter to the class of 2020’s time at Wesley.

As I reflect on my time as Worship Minister, I feel nothing but gratefulness. As Winnie the Pooh said, “How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

It has been a wonderful and grace-filled semester, and I am excited to see how Worship continues to grow during the summer and through the next year!

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COVID-19 Update

Skyler Bauman

Since COVID-19 broke out, everyone's lives have changed drastically. For the lives of college students, however, it seems that everything was going to be taken away from us: we cannot go to classes or congregate for worship at Wesley. Learning a new normal has been challenging, but Wesley has definitely made this transition easier.

When everything with COVID-19 started getting serious, a lot of us Wesley students were on the Spring Break Mission Trip. This meant when we learned that Virginia Tech was essentially shutting down, we were all together. Instead of trying to get us to only look at the positives, however, there was a time and space during worship when we could talk openly



about our fears and doubts during this time. The vulnerability that came out of this was amazing. I felt so comforted knowing that others in this community were feeling the same fear that I was, because I knew that meant we would get through this together as a family.

From that moment on, Wesley has been a grounding point amid the pandemic. The group chats are being used daily, with people sending out mission opportunities, recipes to try in quarantine, and daily pictures of their pets. Countless GroupMe chats have been made, among them being one for arts and crafts, an Animal Crossing video game group, one for pets, and a baking chat. These groups have helped me feel like I am still connected with some of my best friends. It helps to remind me that when all of this is over, we will be able to sit in Kelly's office and joke around again.

Wesley has also been doing Zoom calls to make meetings feel more in-person. From Zoom worship, to our Harry Potter and the Sacred Text discussion group, to CoGs, these Zoom calls have helped me feel like I am sitting right next to my Wesley family.

So from Netflix parties and online



bingo, to baking competitions and virtual Reading Day breakfast, Wesley has been a place to help ground me. It is a community that I feel as if I can continue to grow and learn from, in spite of everything going on in the world right now.

Overall, Wesley has transitioned seamlessly to an online format. We started this journey with vulnerability, and that opened the floor for people to be open about how they wanted to stay connected. Because of this, people have been cultivating their leadership and helping us all stay close as a community. So for Wesley, openness about how we are feeling has been crucial. This honesty is something that sets Wesley apart as a community and as a ministry. I know that we will continue to grow in chartering this new and very different reality.

Fun143

Caroline Harvey

Fun 143 is one of the many ways that Wesley loves out loud. Twice a week, students meet with local middle and high school kids to provide homework help and mentorship. This semester, Fun 143 continued strongly. As some of the kids had sports obligations, we had six regular student attendees in the Spring semester; we had three to six regular Wesley tutors. Although our time with the kids was cut short by the COVID-19 crisis, we certainly made good strides towards improving grades and becoming a support system.

One of the ways that we help support the kids is through providing dinner, which includes various flavors of Hawaiian Punch to drink. After much deliberation about what flavor was truly the best, the tutors decided to hold a formal vote. The choices were green, blue, red, and orange. Each student and Wesley tutor had a chance to taste all the flavors, blindfolded (to avoid bias), and vote for their favorite. After a nail biting tie between red and green, red was the winning flavor amongst the Fun 143 family.

From everyone who attends the Fun 143 program, thank you for supporting us, and thank you to those who donated meals and drinks.

209 Manna Ministries

Kameron Rigg: 209 Co-leader

This semester has been an exciting one for 209 Manna Ministries with us continuing our mission of providing food and basic necessities for Virginia tech students in need while looking to the future to see where it will bring us. During this Covid-19 crisis, I am happy to say that we have been able to keep our doors open, allowing us to provide much needed food for students. This is important because in some circumstances they may have lost their jobs due to local businesses closing.

This has not been a solo effort. Wesley has continued to receive help from NLCF (New Life Christian Fellowship) and APO (a service fraternity) both of which have taken up the responsibility of running the pantry on different days during the week. We are looking forward to more partnerships that will better enable us to reach out to those in need. Thank you for all your support.

Spring Break Mission Trip

Lydia Stonerook: Missions Minister

This year's spring break was arguably the most memorable trip to date. We began our journey by traveling over 15 hours in two days to reach Fort Denaud, Florida, marking the longest trip in Wesley history. Here, we stayed in cabins on a campground, where we saw frogs, an opossum, and possibly an armadillo (it was dark)!



Our students were broken up into five groups, each of which worked on sites damaged during Hurricane Irma in 2017. As the homes had been sitting, wet, in the Florida heat for three years, the main concern was mold growth. One worksite even had to receive hazmat training because live mold was growing throughout the trailer! Other projects included removing and replacing sub-flooring and drywall,



demolishing kitchen cabinets, repairing plumbing systems, and painting buildings on the campgrounds.

Two groups of students also had the opportunity to travel to Fort Myers with Bret to take part in "Exceptional Entrepreneurs", an alternative form of worship through Grace Church. Adults with intellectual disabilities are invited to spend three days a week in fellowship with one another and their mentors, creating wood projects to sell to the community. At the beginning of the day, we participated in a devotional and shared about our weekends. Then, they broke up into their stations, some going to the fully stocked woodworking shop, others to paint stools, and some to shred papers.

We would like to thank the supporters of 209 Manna Ministries from the past year:

Monisha Daniel

Newman Catholic Campus
Ministry

Eileen Martin

Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers!

Everyone is given the freedom to participate in the projects they choose. It was amazing to see individuals, who some in society deem to be less than, find their gifts and show their passion for life through their work.

On our free day, we were hit with the news of the escalating COVID19 pandemic, which included the ending of in-person classes. As a ministry, we were able to join in an evening of fellowship and worship in which we addressed our common concerns and fears. This allowed us to finish the week strong and reminded us the reason we traded a relaxing week at home for one filled with hard work in Florida heat: to show others the love of God through our physical works.



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Wesley 23

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