



The Wesley Volume 1, Issue 1

Wesley Foundation — Cullowhee, North Carolina



A Note from the Director

Greetings from the Wesley Foundation at Western Carolina University! Since arriving in Cullowhee, one of the top things on my to do list has been to create an informative newsletter about the Wesley ministry. (I know, new campus minister, new newsletter!) Because the ministry is so alive, active and participatory (a.k.a. time consuming); the newsletter has continued to get pushed down the list. Well, I am proud to say the project has made it to the “get it done” list and as a result you are reading the first issue.

The goals of this letter are simple. We wish to inform you of where God is working and moving with the Wesley Foundation students, to help keep alumni informed of alumni happenings and people, to inform youth ministers of Wesley’s activities so they know we are a resource for their current graduates, and to let you know of the ministry’s prayer concerns and other needs.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read this and then send me some of your thoughts. What did you like? What did you

want to see more of? If you are alum, take a minute to share some memories and photos with us. If you know of someone coming to WCU, please share this letter or our website with them. Lastly, please pray for this ministry to be able to holistically support young adults who are at a stage of exploring life’s many offerings.

May God’s Blessings be Upon You.

—Jay Hinton

Construction Update

The new Wesley Foundation building at Cullowhee United Methodist Church will be ready for use around February 2009. Over the past two weeks the electricians have been busy stringing electrical wire and all the electrical boxes throughout the structure. Wesley students spent one evening sweeping and

cleaning up all of the dirt, conduit cut offs, and other scraps that come along with construction.

Outside last week there was a morning of clearing of brush, sticks, and overgrowth in preparation for the new “Alumni Walkway.” The new 1,100 square foot walkway will

provide an inviting introduction to the several thousand students who walk by each day on Central Drive. We are still seeking donations for the construction costs to keep it a loan-free project.

Read the Fall Break article to learn what else current students are doing to help.

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Inside this issue:

<i>Fall Break Mission</i>	2
<i>Mission Possible!</i>	2
<i>Student Spotlight</i>	3
<i>Alumni Spotlight</i>	3
<i>The Power of Working Together</i>	3
<i>The “Last Word” with the “Prez.”</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- There will be an alumni dinner during this year’s WCU Homecoming. Dinner is at 5:00 pm. Please contact us if you plan to attend.
- The average attendance for Wesley Foundation’s Thursday night student lead worship has been 35 students. The new name of the service is “WHEE Worship.”
- Wesley will help Cashiers UMC with a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser at the Mountain Heritage Festival. The students are preparing 125 PB&J sandwiches to be sold at a booth.



Future Alumni Walkway Location

Wesley Foundation Fall Break



A current view from inside the new Wesley Foundation building.

For the fall break mission trip this year (October 9-14) the students at Wesley Foundation decided to stay a little closer to home. In fact, they are not going anywhere! What? Not going anywhere? That's right. They are going to stay in Cullowhee to work on the new Wesley Foundation building. They are so committed to making sure they have the chance to be a part of and contribute to the new facility that they are willing to forgo going somewhere new and exciting.

The group will be housed in the gymnasium at Sylva First United Methodist Church. The tentative schedule includes three full days of work. During these days the group plans to hang the suspended ceiling, put the lights in the ceiling, repair cabinets in their current space, install counter tops, and install flooring. They are going to be busy!

In addition to all of the work, the group has some fun activities planned. They will hike near Bryson City one afternoon and end near dark at the "Road to Nowhere." On another after-

noon they will make the trek over the mountains to Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge for some food and fun. There has also been talk about a night time game of capture the flag and a trip to the movie theatre.

Beyond all the work and fun there will be daily devotions and reflections. On Sunday the 12th they plan to worship at Sylva's early service and attend the late service at Cullowhee UMC. It is essential that this time be a bonding experience for the group. However, we will also intentionally make it an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Mission Possible—Guatemala

It's official, Wesley is planning to go to Guatemala at the end of spring semester with Habitat for Humanity International.

Why Guatemala? Believe me, I have heard that question more than a few times in the past few months.

As you know, one focus of the United Methodist Church is Social Justice. I led a group of college students to Guatemala in March of 2008. From that experience I feel getting our student missionaries to another country helps them understand other cultures by interacting and working side by side with the locals. They will learn first hand how others live and what poverty is like in other countries. This is a step for peace, one relationship at a time.

Ever since experiencing the challenge of cleaning up after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, I have tried to provide a mission experience that is not only physically challenging but also takes one's other senses out of the comfort zone. It is amazing how much spiritual growth can occur when you are out of your comfort zone.

Because it will cost about \$1,950

per participant, Wesley will be undertaking a major fundraising effort. The students have already planned several fundraisers here in Cullowhee and have more planned for winter.

Each student is also required to pay \$300 out of pocket and for other pre-trip costs (passports and immunizations). Many will ask their home church to make a contribution to their trip. However, there will still be much more money to raise.

I know you are asking yourself, "How can I help?" I'm glad you asked! We try to make helping as easy and painless as possible. Some ways listed below don't cost you a penny!

If you shop at **Food Lion** you can sign up for the "**Shop and Share**" program on their website and designate Wesley Foundation as the group you shop for. It doesn't cost you anything to participate and Wesley Foundation gets a percentage kick-back from your purchases. Contact Jay Hinton at the Wesley Foundation and he will be glad to help you through the process.

Another way Wesley can earn a penny every time you search the

internet or a percentage of every purchase you make online is through **GoodSearch.com**. It is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine.

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping site which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to Wesley! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting Wesley Foundation. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter WCU Wesley Foundation as the charity you want to support.

Lastly, and most simply, please **consider making a donation in the envelope provided**. I will be glad when the fundraising is over. It is my least favorite aspect. However, we can't do His work without your financial and prayerful support!

Thank you for being part of the students' spiritual journey.

- Jay

*"As you know,
one focus of the
United Methodist
Church is Social
Justice."*



A Guatemalan woman sweeps outside of her dirt floor home.

Student Spotlight—Carol Norris



I am from Franklin, North Carolina. I chose to attend WCU mainly because it is close to home. I am a sophomore and an elementary education major.

I found out about Wesley when Tim Moore came and spoke at my church. I had wanted to attend and see what it was all about at the beginning of my freshman year, but I didn't want to go alone. A few months later, I found Wesley on Facebook and saw that there was a Bible study on Revelations, so I convinced my boyfriend to go with me because that was something we were both interested in.

At first, I kept coming back because of the people. I just

felt welcome and I was really glad I had made some new friends. Now, I keep coming for some other reasons as well. It rejuvenates me so that I am able to go out and do God's work better than I was before. I also feel like there are a lot of lost, hurting people out there, and that being involved in Wesley is one way that I can reach out to them. The temptations in college are everywhere, and I always know that I can come to Wesley and be around people who

care and participate in activities that are designed to glorify God.

I loved our mission trip to New York City, and I have really enjoyed our activities that are geared towards relaxation, like the Connections retreat and going to Deep Creek.

The one thing I would like people to know about me is that I am a Christian and I am not afraid to stand up for what I believe.

Alumni Spotlight—Burnetta “Etta” Barton



(Burnetta by the “Burning Bush” at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary)

I was part of the Wesley Foundation from 1997-2001. After graduating, I taught high school English in Robbins, NC for one year and middle school (8th grade) language arts and North Carolina history in my hometown of Asheboro, NC for four years. In 2006, I accepted God's call to ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Currently, I am a senior at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where I will

graduate in May with a Master's of Divinity; afterward, I will either do a residency as a chaplain or seek a call as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

When I was a student there were fewer things in Cullowhee then than there are now. For example, we had to drive to Dillsboro to go to the Huddle House after dances instead going across the street.

My favorite memories from Wesley Foundation were the dances; they were so much fun. We had a group of guys who did "white boy dances." Then, some of the group would break out in a dramatic rendition of "Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody." I was "famous" for my own dancing inventions--"the flying nun," "the Burnetta dance," and every-

one's personal favorite, "the Teletubby." All of my dances could be danced to any song regardless of the beat.

The Wesley Foundation has had a major impact on my life. First, it was the first place where I felt loved and accepted for who I am. Second, the friends that I made there have remained some of my best friends despite the changes in our own lives. They continue to support me and love me, and I thank God for them. Finally, my time in the Wesley Foundation helped me to discover my gifts and passions in ministry. I discovered a love for Christian Education during my time as the Worship Chair and discovered gifts that needed to be developed and nurtured. As I discerned

my call to ministry, my time at Wesley was one of the things that helped me to see where God was leading me and helped me to find my path. I thank God for this place and for the experiences (good and bad) that I had there.

My biggest piece of advice to current students is to be as involved as possible. My biggest regret is that I was not more involved. I am a dork, and I spent a lot of my time in college in my books. I wish I had spent a little less time writing notes and little more time just being me.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Wesley Foundation “Pres.” Has *The Last Word*

As we enter the fall semester I am really excited for the Wesley Foundation for many reasons. Construction on the new building is coming along well. We hope to be in the building by early February. I can't wait for you to see the place.

By hiring a new campus minister, Jay Hinton, at the end of last spring semester, we had a lot of planning work to do over the summer months which was especially difficult since we were all away from WCU. One thing we needed to prepare for was the “Two Crazy Weeks” of Wesley. During that time we had an activity everyday for the first two weeks of the fall semester.

The Wesley council keeps amazing me with their will-

ingness to work and meet to make Wesley better. The first two weeks went well, and we have lots of new faces around Wesley.

Thursday Worship (WHEE Worship) has been going wonderfully. At the end of last year we applied for a grant to purchase sound equipment. We received 5,000 dollars! We soon purchased new sound equipment and drums. The praise band also continues to reach out to other churches and organizations in the area by playing for them.

I am extremely excited that this year for fall break we are going to have the opportunity to stay and help build our new Wesley Foundation building. I feel the break will offer a great opportunity for Wesley Foundation members to feel

as if they are a part of the creation of our new building. We have planned hikes and a trip to Gatlinburg as a part of the activities also.

Some other things we have coming up are the homecoming dinner for Wesley Alumni and hosting and preparing this year's annual District Clergy Christmas dinner. We are also focusing on fundraising. The funding from the conference is slowly dwindling and we need to prepare for our mission to Guatemala.

I feel this year we have a great opportunity to see the Wesley Foundation grow in leaps and bounds, in faith as well as in numbers. As the president, I hope to do this by encouraging the council to try new things.



Manning Wimberly, the Wesley Foundation President, promotes the Wesley Foundation to new students at this year's Cat Fair.

Wesley Foundation Student Council

President—Manning Wimberly
Vice President—Drew Carnes
Worship—Justin Cabe
Evangelism—Kerri Bernhardt, Faith White
Service—Lauren Wagner, Jessica Stevenson
Leisure—Carol Norris, Beth Frick
Economics—Michael Stillwagon
Yearning—Jay Hinton