

December 6, 2022



Dear Wesley Alumni, Family, and Friends:

Over the past several months I had the immense pleasure to re-engage with students from my 13 years of ministry at Wesley! It is such a joy to hear about what is going on in their lives, share memories from their time at Wesley, and listen to the ways they are making a difference in this world. I have also connected with alumni that were in Wesley before my time as campus minister. These alumni have shared stories of how Wesley impacted their lives, the ways they are engaged in ministries where they are now, and the desire to give back to Wesley so that students now can have similar life-changing experiences. In all of these interactions, I am constantly reminded how special this ministry (and place) is for so many.

These past couple years have been challenging, but Wesley remained a consistent presence in the lives of students. We adapted to the rapidly changing world and campus due to COVID, worked hard to keep the building open and provide space for students to still engage with one another, and still maintained a community that “Loves Out Loud” to all people. Some of these adaptations and changes in the ministry were small and others pretty large, but, overall, Wesley was able to discover, connect, equip, and send students in ministry. This Fall allowed us to re-engage with some of our strategies for ministry and implement some new ones. With 21 seniors graduating last Spring, our Outreach Team worked tirelessly to meet new students and get Wesley’s name out on campus. Our Core Ministry Team desired to move forward in ministry, taking some of our new ways of doing things and blending it with some of the foundational pieces we had before COVID. I am thrilled with the work of our students and the ways they have lived into our Vision of being “an affirming, grace-filled community that develops and sends out disciples rooted in faith.”

And this is the joy of all of it all; our past and present students desire to make this special place one that will minister to students for years to come! This ministry is made up of alumni, parents, and students that understand the need for a healthy, authentic, and loving Christian community on this campus. Years and years of people who gave of their gifts, energies, and talents to make Wesley the ministry it is today and in the future. What a faithful witness to God’s abundant love and grace Wesley has been and will continue to be at Virginia Tech.

That is why we want to THANK YOU for all of your support during this time and always. Your generosity and faithfulness sustain our ministry and students in so many ways. We do, however, need your support now more than ever. So, we also ask that you consider supporting the ministries of Wesley in the following ways:

- 1) **Your continued prayers!** Pray that Wesley will continue to be a vital and vibrant part of building the Kingdom of God here at Virginia Tech with students. Pray that our students will experience the grace and love of Jesus in new and transforming ways. Pray that we will be open to the Spirit of God in our midst. Pray!
- 2) Connect with us through **social media**, keeping your contact information up-to-date, and by your presence in the ministries of Wesley! Twitter (@vtwesley), Instagram (vtwesley), Facebook Page and Group, our alumni listerv (doesn’t have to just be alumni), and our website (vtwesley.com). Our social media is VERY active, so please connect with us in that way.

- 3) Support our ministry through your **gifts!** Any gift is appreciated and needed! You can do so through these different ways:

To make an immediate gift online to this incredible ministry here are your options:

1. If you want to give through Virginia Tech, then please go to the university's [online giving site](#) and enter "Wesley Foundation at VT" in the "search for area to support" section. You can make a monthly payment option or a one-time donation.
2. You may also make a gift to Wesley via our [PayPal](#)

Or if you would like to send a check you can:

3. Make your check payable to Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech and send to

PO Box 458
Blacksburg, VA 24063.

4. Send a check to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. and note "Wesley Foundation at VT" in the memo section, then mail to:

Virginia Tech, Gift Accounting,
902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

If you make any monthly donation \$23 or greater, you can become a Wesley 23 Donor and receive a monthly email detailing our ministry and hearing from students about Wesley's impact!

So, once again, THANK YOU!! Thank you for helping us be a community of grace, love, spiritual growth, and community. This ministry stands on the foundation of all of your love, work, and support. You enable Wesley to be a blessing on this campus and transform the lives of students in amazing ways. We have some very exciting opportunities for our community in the future, so be on the lookout for ways in which you can be a part of it. Stay healthy and safe!

Be Blessed and Go Hokies,



Bret



The Flame

Volume: 57, Issue 1

Fall 2023



Inside this Issue

Board Letter 2

SCM Report 3

COGs 3

Worship 3

Worship 3

Alumni Spotlight 4

Development Update 4

Fall Retreat 5

Discipleship 5

Student Impact 5

Outreach 6

Missions 7

New Student Bio 8

209 Marketplace 8

Fellowship 9

FUN 143 9

Alumni Announcements 10

2022-2023 CMT

SCM

Avery Rhem

Discipleship

Riley Kaufman

Fellowship

Jacob Ivey

Missions

Savannah Greene

Outreach

Andrew Mudd

Worship

Ethan Shaw

Budget Update

Through October 31, 2022

Reported as: (Budgeted for year / amount through

October 31, 2022)

Expenses: (\$104,608.88 / \$78,835.10)

Receipts: (\$104,608.88 / \$76,686.40)

Development: (\$61,744.88 / \$49,991.70)

Net Balance: (\$0 / -\$2148.07)

A Letter From the Chairman of the Board

The Wesley at Virginia Tech students continue to inspire our Board with their connected ministry and spirituality. Whether through outreach to other VT students, mission trips, tutoring high school students in need of academic help and friendship, hosting our food marketplace, or through weekly worship, bible study and faith discussion/development in small groups (Communities of Grace, or COGS), our students never cease to amaze us!

Our Board meets every other month, with our Executive Committee (Bret, Kelly our Student Campus Minister, and Committee/Team Chairs) meeting in the months that the Board does not meet. We have expanded our Board reach to include members who live outside the New River Valley since we now conduct hybrid Zoom and in-person meetings. We have members residing in places from Georgia to Tennessee, and of course Virginia.

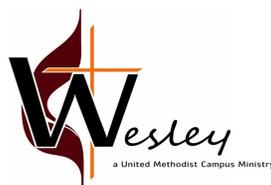
We take great pride in our active and engaged Board participants that cover a diverse range of ages and backgrounds. Our Property and Development Teams have worked hard in recent months, as has our Finance team. Architects have prepared detailed blueprints/plans to begin building renovations after we raise adequate funds to bid the work with contractors. The excitement continues to build as we look forward to the long-needed building upgrades, with plans to move residents from the basement to the second floor, to upgrade accessibility with improved ramps and an elevator, install new heating and air conditioning systems, and to improve all aspects of life/safety in our sixty-year-old facility.

Bret Gresham's student-led campus ministry model provides great experience for our students to grow spiritually as followers of Christ, but our students often discuss how they grow their confidence and leadership abilities while at Wesley. Our Board takes great pride as we listen to Student Impact Statements each Board meeting. These mature young adults articulate heartening stories of their growth, development, and service to God and others. I want to thank all of you as Wesley alumni and friends who continue to take an interest in our students, and who support the ongoing development of wonderful Virginia Tech students as disciples of Jesus. You are greatly appreciated as valuable members of the Wesley at Virginia Tech community.

May God Bless you and your families with a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season.

As we say at Wesley, let's "Love out Loud" this Christmas and always!

David Riggan
Board Chair



SCM Report

Avery Rhem

Hello! This is Avery Rhem, the Student Campus Minister for this year. So far it has been a great year both in terms of the community in general and all of the events that have done. I am going to focus on the community since the rest of our Core Ministry Team will be talking about what they've been doing! While last year still had some of the fears from Covid that we had to take into consideration, we haven't really had those same worries this year. Due to this, we have had a much larger amount of people in the building on a daily basis. Unless it's very early in the morning or in the middle of exams, I don't think I've seen the building empty all semester. With so many people in the building daily it is hardly ever quiet which has brought a huge amount of life to the atmosphere that I haven't fully seen since my freshman year. While there are always ups and downs associated with collegiate life, Wesley and the building that we stay in has been a great place to come for those in need of comfort, fellowship, and sense of security.

CoGs

Flory Brockwell

CoGs, or Communities of Grace, in the Wesley community have been thriving this semester! We have seven wonderful CoGs each with a unique twist such as Game CoG, Book Lovers CoG, and the Freshman Affinity CoG! Aside from their weekly meetings, recently CoGs have been participating in various Wesley events including the cake baking competition and making desserts for our annual Thanksgiving Family Dinner.



Worship

Ethan Shaw



Worship this semester was great! We covered many interesting topics through different sermon series, and our worship band, Faith Unshaken, has grown significantly this fall.

When we started the semester, we had only three band members (many graduated last year), and now we have nine! (Many of whom are new to Wesley this year!) Shout out to our band leader, Harry, who can convince anyone to join the band as soon as he finds out they play an instrument! If it weren't for our band, worship would not be the same

One of this fall's highlights was a two-week sermon series themed around the TV show Cobra Kai. Jacob Henshaw, a



student, came up with the idea and outlined the sermon topics. He preached about perseverance the first week of the series, and would have preached the second week if he did not have a time conflict. Bret preached the second week, talking about Perception vs Reality. I personally really connected with both sermons, and I heard similar things from many other students. Having a student take that initiative and preach a sermon was really cool, and I think Bret enjoyed having a week off as well!

Another sermon series that was very meaningful was our Lost and Found series. We talked about what it feels like

to be lost and how God finds us where we are. We had an activity the first week where students could write stories about how they've felt lost and give them to Bret (with the option of allowing him to share them, anonymously, at the next sermon). The activity had a big impact on everyone, and Bret shared some difficult stories at the following worship (with students' permission). He showed that no one is alone in feeling lost and that even when we feel lost, we should know that other people have felt the same way before and can be there for us. We also had a student share the first week about her Journey of feeling lost her freshman year and how she got through it. We had several other series this semester as well, and the last two weeks of worship will wrap up the semester with a sermon about Advent and our semesterly Prayer Vigil worship, which kicks off our 24-hour Prayer Vigil before finals week! Overall, it has been a great semester at Wesley and I look forward to what Worship Team plans next semester!

Alumni Spotlight: Fred Gibson

Class of 1978

When were you at Wesley?

I was at Wesley from the fall of 1974 to the spring of 1978

What is your most memorable experience at Wesley?

I think the overall memorable experiences came from all of the times the Wesley Singers led worship at the area churches. It was long before contemporary worship even became a thing and our worship style brought a fresh look to Methodist worship. As for a singular experience, the flood clean up in Grundy, Virginia was totally different than anything I had ever done before. I could also mention intramural sports, but I won't.

What church do you attend now?

I attend Concord UMC in Knoxville. We just recently moved to Knoxville after being in Houston for over 20 years. I have become involved by teaching senior high Sunday school, singing in the choir and chorale, playing handbells, coaching basketball, working at the Thrift Store and going on youth mission activities.

How have you been connected to Wesley since graduating?

We used to make it a point to get together every five years, but we haven't

done that as much recently. There are quite a few of us that stay in touch via social media, which is better than not at all. When my children were at Tech, it was easier to stay in touch. I'm wondering if we can find a way to get back together for the 50(!) year celebration of the Wesley singers.

What do you do for work?

I have recently retired after 42 years in the oil & gas business.

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

For the first part of my career, I had the good fortune to do a lot of things that had never been done before in the industry. We had several industry "firsts"; that was pretty exciting. In the latter part of my career, I was able to have the freedom to take our business in whatever direction I wanted. That opened the door to a lot of possibilities.

Why did you choose this job?

Providing energy improves humanity; it increases life spans, improves living

conditions, allows for better medical treatments, and increases mobility.

How did Wesley prepare you for work? For life?

Although it was hard to see all of the things at the time, there was a lot about Wesley that carried on into adult life. We were a diverse group that developed into a community. We didn't all agree about our faith, but the differences didn't stop us. We learned to be comfortable with our faith in a large community/university that was not faith based. We knew that our faith was not static and we had to grow in it. These things became more and more important with time.

Where do you live now?

Knoxville, TN



Development Update

Jessica Dodson

Hey y'all! I wanted to share a quick update from our Development Team. As you probably know, our work is mainly to help raise funds so that Bret, the Board and the students can focus on the other aspects of our ministry. It's really rewarding work in a few ways.

First, we strive to make new connections with our young alumni by inviting them into our Wesley 23 program! Wesley 23 offers the chance to begin regular giving at just \$23 a month. From there, the funds are split: \$7 goes toward our Building Fund, \$7 goes toward our Development, \$7 goes toward our Missions Fund, and \$2 goes toward building our Reserves. In addition to being a stewardship practice and supporting our ministry, Wesley 23 also offers a stronger sense of community because donors receive monthly emails filled with ministry highlights and prayer requests. In 2022 so far we've seen 5 new Wesley 23 donors. Our Wesley 23 givers make up 33% of our development goal this year!

Secondly, the development team is responsible for raising almost 60% of our operating funds per year. Because of the generosity of donors like you year-round we're much further ahead on our development goal (with just 20% remaining!) at this time of the year than usual. This is a huge win in maintaining healthy cash flow (something I never imagined I'd get excited about) and only possible because of you!

Finally, the Development Team is working closely alongside the Property Team on a huge undertaking soon to be announced that will help make our building all it needs to be for our students.

I want to take a moment to thank all of our donors! The important, life-changing ministry happening at Wesley simply would not be possible without your support, including your donations and your prayers. Thank you so much for partnering with us in this transformational work!

Fall Retreat

Avery Rhem

One of our really big events that we have every year is our Fall Retreat where we all take a weekend to get away from campus to spend time together and confront some of our questions and thoughts around faith. This year we focused on what it means to “Be Real” with our faith. We spent large amounts of time in small groups during each of our worship services to focus on what the message that we were going over means. Some of the questions that we looked at included what it means to be yourself and what



our individual faith journeys have looked like, and what it means to be a Christian in today’s society. The other things we looked at were what some of our challenges in faith have been and what we’ve had questions about and how we can bring more faith based questions into our daily conversations. Overall the whole retreat ended up being a huge success with a large group of people going with a majority of them being new faces to Wesley. We all came back from the trip feeling closer to each other with a fresh outlook on the rest of the semester.

Discipleship

Riley Kaufman

Hello! Your friendly neighborhood Discipleship Minister is here to tell you how well Discipleship within Wesley has been going this fall! We started out strong with CoG Kickoff Family dinner where the Discipleship Team cooked a breakfast feast and introduced everyone to our 7 different CoGs that would be happening this year. CoG leaders have been excited about the communities they have been building each week and collaborating with one another to give support and new ideas throughout the semester. We tried a new collaborative approach to Prayer Circle this semester so rather than having a designated prayer circle “star,” members of the discipleship team signed up to lead different weeks which allowed for a positive and diverse experience in how different prayer can look like. Our FiG’s, also known as Friends in Grace, have been going strong with 20 student pairings meeting on a regular basis to grow deeper in community and faith together. Our end-of-semester Prayer Vigil Worship was full of reflection on the past semester now that we are back in a “normal” post-covid world, how students are feeling right now, and what they are looking for in the future after this season of finals and stress comes to an end. My team and I are excited to collaborate over the break and plan for new and exciting events for the spring semester, but for right now I am proud of how this fall has gone.

The Impact Wesley Has Had on Me

Jackson Moyer

The impact that I’ve experienced from Wesley is learning how to take on leadership in a faith community. Like most others, I never had the chance to be a leader while growing up in church. At Wesley, it’s much different because nearly everything is student-run. Therefore, if you spend enough time in the building, you’ll probably end up getting asked to help on a planning team and I think that’s a great thing. It makes us a community that works to serve each other – for instance, I help plan our weekly worship and other students get to benefit when they come and have a cohesive worship. Those same people that benefit from my work help to plan events that I get to take part in, like our interfaith cake baking competition in November.

While I love this opportunity to take some leadership in this ministry, I’ll admit that it was a little daunting at first. I am currently leading a Community of



Grace, a role I was a little intimidated by initially because I thought I needed to have all the answers during our bible study. But I’m so glad that I had that opportunity for leadership - I’ve learned that I don’t need all the answers because we still grow in faith by discussing questions together rather than one leader declaring the “absolute truth” to everyone. In summary, I am thankful for a ministry that places so much responsibility on its students - I’ve seen so many people rise to the challenge and do great things for our community and I’m grateful that occasionally I’ve been asked to rise to the occasion as well. In summary, the impact that Wesley has had on me is giving me the confidence to be a leader in a faith organization. I am thankful for a ministry that places so much responsibility on its students - I’ve seen so many people rise to the challenge and do great things for our community and I’m grateful that occasionally I’ve been asked to rise to the occasion as well.

Outreach

Andrew Mudd



Hello! This is Andrew Mudd, this year's Outreach Minister, here to give you an update on all things Outreach over the last semester. The fall semester started with Wesley's Weeks of Welcome, which were a smashing success! The first event was our annual Kickoff Cookout on Wednesday, August 17th, where we invited anyone from the Virginia Tech community to enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian/vegan burgers, and sides while playing games and meeting friendly faces. Over 400 people stopped by during the three hours, and many people were very appreciative. A big thank you goes out to the "edges" community who came out and helped serve food, freeing Wesley students to interact with new people.

The first week of classes boasted four Wesley Weeks of Welcome events: Water Wars, Tie-Dye Tuesday, S'mores after Worship, and Game Night. After the first day of classes, we invited people to cool off with water balloons, water guns, and ice cream on our volleyball court at Water Wars. The next event was a movie night out on our volleyball court! On Friday, August 19th, we watched the original Top Gun since Maverick had just entered theaters, and we set up a popcorn bar, where you could add candy toppings. The weather was very nice, and over 50 students stopped by. On Sunday, we introduced a completely rede-



signed Classroom Quest. Around lunch time, we tabled outside of Owens Dining Hall, asking students if they knew where their classes were as they walked by. We handed out maps of the Virginia Tech campus, and also offered to draw out walking paths on these maps. The group of students volunteering at this event were very helpful, and the students who participated seemed very grateful. I did not expect the amount of students who were looking for this kind of help, and we interacted with over 200 students. The weather was perfect, and we met some new students.

At Tie-Dye Tuesday, we invited people to Wesley to tie-dye their choice of white Wesley t-shirt, bandana, scrunchie, or pair of socks. People designed their own creations while bringing home Wesley swag in the process. While meeting new students, we were able to further connect with those who had come to previous events. To promote our first worship of the year, we set up a fire pit on the volleyball court and cooked s'mores after the service! We had dietary options for everyone, and people stayed around and mingled for an extra hour after worship had ended. On Friday, we hosted the first Game Night of the year, playing board games and card games around the building. It was a good time in Fellowship with new students, and we cooked leftover hamburgers and hot dogs.

Wesley's Weeks of Welcome concluded during the second week of classes with four additional events: Life Size Game Night, Talk with a Dog Thursday, Gobblerfest, and the Football Game Watch Party. On Monday, August 29, we set up several games in Eggleston Quad on campus. Students walked up between classes or after eating and joined Wesley students in playing games in the quad. Derek the Virginia Tech Therapy Dog, Bret's dog Groot, and Lauren Lowe's dog Lee stopped by on Thursday to offer a space for de-stressing after the first two weeks of classes. Wesley joined Virginia Tech's 800+ student clubs and organizations on the Drillfield for Gobblerfest on Friday, offering a prize wheel to give out free swag and meeting hundreds of students.

Finally, we gathered in the Wesley MPR to watch the first Virginia Tech football game of the season, further

bonding with new students and snacking on chips and buffalo chicken dip. In total, we had about 1,400 interactions through our 12 Weeks of Welcome events. I am very proud of my Outreach Team for their hard work during these three weeks, and special thanks to Leanna Tarr, the Connector Director Star, and Olivia Powell, the Social Media Star, for all that they did. Many new students got connected into the ministry very quickly, and I think a lot of that can be attributed to the variety of events during those first few weeks, allowing many opportunities for people to meet other Wesley students.

Later in the semester, we tabled twice during the week before Halloween. We gave out Halloween candy attached to fliers advertising our upcoming events (including our Halloween Party), dressed up in costumes, and polled passing students on their thoughts on candy corn. Over the two tabling events, each in a different location, we interacted with over 500 students!



Missions

Savannah Greene

Hello Flame readers! My name is Savannah and I am Wesley's current Missions Minister! Our missions team has been working hard and we are so happy with how the semester turned out for us!

Throughout the semester, we have been supporting Fun143 and 209 Market Place, our tutoring and food pantry ministries, respectively. Both recently received upgrades through our Mission Days in October!

We partnered with Wesley at William and Mary to sand and paint the cabinets in the Fun143 trailer, deep clean the bathrooms, assemble and replace bookshelves, and declutter the space. We hauled off two old, breaking bookshelves and a truck bed of clutter, making the trailer space feel much more open. Our new, blue cabinets make the space so much brighter, and we feel it's a great improvement to our weekly place of community. Working with W&M Wesley was such a joy and we are grateful they reached out to partner with us and take time out of their Fall Retreat to the New River Valley.



For our 209 Market Place Mission Day, we had a big cleaning and painting party. A member of our Missions Team, Emily Murray's birthday was the same weekend and her birthday wish was to have a work day in the pantry. Together, her design team, her parents, and Wesley students deep cleaned 209, painted two accent walls in the shopping space, painted the checkout office walls, and cleaned and decluttered a large closet space for a future clothing installment we have already gotten donations for! We are so grateful to give life back into the space and make it a more welcoming experience for our shoppers.

Our annual Cake Mix Collection was an absolute success! Wesley purchased

1,000 cake mixes to donate to the Montgomery County Christmas Store, which will help feed families this holiday season. As part of our fundraiser, Missions Team held a cake-baking competition in which teams competed for the best cake, and participants came to watch and eat the cake buffet. Competitors and attendees paid entry fees to help fundraise for the event. It was such an enjoyable community experience for the pre-holiday season and we are so grateful for all those who donated and supported this year's collection!

Finally, Spring Break Team discerned our Spring Break 2023 location and announced it at Thanksgiving Family Dinner! We will be going to Jackson, Kentucky to work with Methodist Mountain Missions. We will be helping with flood recovery construction efforts and working with their clothing stores to distribute clothing to the local community. The SB Team will plan a more detailed itinerary in the coming months. We are so excited for the coming months!

Thanks for reading through this missions update! Always feel free to reach out with any questions or service opportunities!



New Student Bio: Dori Mitchell

Hello lovely people of Wesley past and present! My name is Dori Mitchell, and I am a freshman majoring in biochemistry in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who loves country music, swimming, going on outdoor adventures, eating desserts, spending time with animals, and “fighting” with my little sister who is a senior in high school.

I am from Suffolk, VA (SE Virginia/ Hampton Roads), and I have been a member of Oakland Christian United Church of Christ in my hometown since I was born. I am one of the new freshmen to the Wesley Foundation and a Wesley legacy student! My parents, Dana and John Mitchell, were here in the late 80s/ early 90s as part of the Wesley singers and volleyball team, so when I was born, stories of Virginia Tech almost always included stories of the Wesley Foundation.

Though the building hasn't changed, neither has the welcoming atmosphere and kind, diverse, wonderful people inside. Though I knew about the Wesley Foundation from the start, the first event I

decided to attend on my own accord was the “Top Gun Maverick” movie night! After meeting so many friendly upperclassmen, I knew I would be back,



and soon after (within about the first 2 weeks of moving in), worship, family dinner, and Freshman Cog became items on my weekly schedule.

After I really got connected through these events and other miscellaneous activities, I began to find a home at Wesley in the afternoons. Freshman roommates have their horror stories, my story will soon be added to that collection, so I certainly choose to spend a lot of time at Wesley.

I am a part of the Freshman Affinity CoG, Spring Break Planning Team, Wesley Board, and volleyball intramural teams. I am also a new nursery attendant and Sunday School helper at BUMC Church St downtown. My favorite thing to do at Wesley is to grab some lunch (I almost always arrive to Wesley with food in my arms), hear about everyone's day in the lobby, then lay on the floor of Kelly's office with Groot, Bret's dog/ horse, and just soak in the peace of the day surrounded by humans!

Thank you to everyone past and present who has been part of making the Wesley community what it is today and for supporting this ministry!

209 Marketplace

Evan Gross

209 Marketplace has been going well this semester and has experienced a few developments. We are experiencing a slightly higher number of shoppers as compared to past years, but have not had as steady a supply of donations as in the past, especially for milk and eggs. So at times we have ended up with a low inventory, but Kroger runs from volunteers with New Life Christian Fellowship (NLCF) has helped with that.

In October, Wesley held a Mission Day to clean up and paint 209 Marketplace (pictures attached) and also to celebrate Emily Murray's birthday! The office was painted a checkered pattern, the brick was painted with a vine design, and a solid color was painted on the interior walls and doors. Also, the shelves behind the curtain were cleaned and organized to make space for

clothing items that will soon be put out as an addition to 209's current selection of items, an initiative led by Sammie Boyer. Thank you to everyone who helped with 209 Marketplace this semester!



Thank you to our 209 donors:

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry

Daniel and Carol Garcia

Disciple Women's Ministries of Blacksburg Christian Church

Virginia Tech Women's Club

And all our volunteers!

Fellowship

Jacob Ivey

Hello, my name is Jacob Ivey, some call me Jivey, and I am the Fellowship Minister and Intramural Sports Star! A little about me, I am a senior in Chemical Engineering and I enjoy building Lego sets and spending time with friends! As for fellowship activities at Wesley this semester we have done a bunch of events.

One of our biggest event's this year was our recent white elephant gift exchange where many gifts were given and some were stolen, but everyone went home with some kind

of gift. We also had a fun Halloween party where we wore costumes, ate doughnuts from strings, played sardines in the dark, and watch Halloween movies with snacks.

As for intramural sports, the Wesley sports team has played volleyball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, and soccer. We always had a great time, through the wins and the losses. We are looking forward to innertube water polo, basketball, and an interfaith softball team for the spring semester!



Fun143

Lauren Lowe

This year at Fun143 the trailer and curriculum has gotten a total face lift! With the help of Wesley at William and Mary, we were able to reorganize the trailer, sand and repaint kitchen cabinets, and build new book shelves so that we can continue to grow our library!

This year's Angel Tree was extra special because we were able to buy gifts for five siblings in a Fun143 family. Without the help from First United Methodist and donations, these things would not be possible.



Alumni Announcements

I wanted to say in the Flame that after finishing 33 and ½ years working at VA Tech, the largest time period in my position as an Extension Specialist; Seafood Engineer at the Virginia Seafood AREC with home department of Bio Systems Engineering and affiliation with VCE and the Department of Food Science, I retired as of April 30, 2022. I very much appreciated the time as a member of the faculty community off and on campus. I now have and enjoy time to spend with my wife and family, travel, learn new areas, and to keep my mind curious and fit by choosing to remain as an Affiliate Faculty member with the Virginia Seafood AREC for some limited special projects.

Bob Lane—Class of 1977/1978



David and Kate Slater on the birth of our second child, Alexander James Slater on August 16, 2022



Matt and Katie Greene on the birth of their daughter, Blakley James Greene.



Jonathan and Jessica DeFreeuw celebrating the birth of son, Elijah Paul DeFreeuw, born 10/07/22

I passed my defense and I have earned a PhD in Modeling and Simulation from University of Central Florida. Julie Kent



To the left is Camden Smith and right is Cohen Smith. A few months back, Camden (8 yo) decided he wanted to be baptized and made the decision to give his heart to the lord and accepted Christ in his heart. The shirt he is wearing is from his baptism and his decision to follow Christ. For school this week, they had a super hero day where the kids could dress like their super hero. Camden chose to wear his shirt so he could be like Jesus who he announced as his super hero. This was a great moment for us as parents and as Wesley Alumni Virginia Tech 07, my wife Susan Smith and I (Ryan Smith) were so proud of our son. Camden's little brother wanted to get a picture with his super hero as well :)



Aaron and Audrey Gregory on the birth of their son, Simon Ray Gregory, born August 7, 2022



Chip Jackson and Anna Skinner were married on April 30, 2022

Donors: April 1, 2022 — November 30, 2022

Chris Anderson	Lori and Kyle Ford	Steve and Lorna Vink Parkins
Shawn and Maria Arner	Jason and Katie Boggs Forsyth	Stephen and Carolyn Marionneaux Perry
Tom and Amy McGregor Barnes	Rachel Freeman	Josh Peters
Matt and Kelly Hudson Beeken	Kaitlyn Gallagher	Archie and Barbara A. Phlegar
Leonard and Laura Bell	Charles Given	Charlie D. and Karen C. Phlegar
Matthew and Melinda Hirt Borrie	Chris B Givens	Herb Poff
Anna Bosco	Thomas and Lori Givens	William T. and Ida Berger Powell
Andrew and Olivia Bowers	Bret and Erin Gresham	Inge Pyle
Stewart V. and Melissa R. Bowers	Van and Barbara Gresham	Rob and Melissa Mayton Rhyne
Jason and Maggie Brooks	Rebecca Gullikson	Minnis E. and Louise Ridenour
Jeff Brooks	Jennifer N. and Stephen Haddock	David and Glenna Rigg,an
Margaret Brown	Sharon K. Hall	Lloyd and Sherri Robinson
Bob and Teri Byers-Koleas	Caroline Harvey	Denise and Billy Rudolph
Rachel Cannon	C. Gene and Patricia A. Haugh	Duane and Tammy Owens Schoenhardt
Chris Chamberlain	Stanley A. and Laura Hefta	Amy Shank
Sarah Clark	Brian and Kelly Walters Henshaw	Rick and Alice Shaw
Adam and Erica Coates	Michelle Hettmann	Carson Smith
Stephen and Jennifer Dikison Coffey	Carol Highfield	Nancy Stevenson
Bella Collins	Anita C. and Daniel L. Hudson	Scott and Susan Cox Stouffer
Ginger Meier and Gary Cope	Charles Jackson and Anna Skinner	Matthew Vetting
Christopher and Kathy Cover	Dwight and Phyllis Forbush Kitchens	Tom and Peggy Weaver
David and Faye Crist	Rick and Alexis Lewis	Jean Wheeling
Monisha Gnanadchandra Daniel	Stephen and Mandy Garrett Lloyd	Davey and Lizi Winyall
George A. and Rebecca Daniels	William Andy Lowe	Eric and Kelly Wiseman
Jessica Dodson	Katelyn Lydens	Cynthia Wood
Rick and Anne Ellis	Tom and Cindy Martin	Lauren Wright
Amy Emerson and Bill Bancroft	Mike and Erin Mattern	Christopher and Minoka Yonts
Drew and Catherine E F Ensz	Cody and Jessica McCurry	Abby Youmans
Tim and Joanna Gilmore Etheredge	Jacob and Tara Montague	
David and Lynn Everett	Kevin Mosteller	

Want a monthly update on all things Wesley?

Become a Wesley 23 Donor!

Donors will receive a monthly email with highlights and prayer requests for the ministry.

By joining Wesley 23, you are committing to making a \$23 donation to Wesley at VT that would be taken out automatically on the 23rd of every month.

\$7 goes towards our Building Fund

\$7 goes toward our Development Fund

\$7 goes towards our Missions Fund

\$2 goes towards building our Reserves

Check out www.vtwesley.com/wesley-23 for more information

Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech
PO Box 458
Blacksburg, VA 24063

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #80
Blacksburg, VA 24060

The Flame