



THE FLAME

**Semesterly Newsletter from
Wesley at Virginia Tech**

Volume 63. Spring 2026



Remembering Glenn Tyndall

*Celebrating the life of the
Reverend L. Glenn Tyndall*

February 5, 1942 - March 5, 2026

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Remembering Rev. Glenn Tyndall

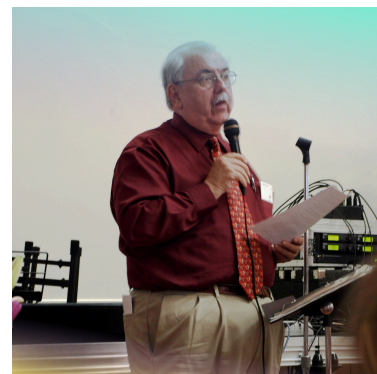
Many of you have already heard the sad news that our beloved former campus minister, Rev. Glenn Tyndall, recently passed away. Glenn served as Wesley's director from 1974–2009 and shaped generations of students through his faithful leadership, pastoral care, and deep love for this community. Over Wesley weekend, so many alumni shared stories about the profound ways Glenn helped shape their faith, their callings, and their lives. His impact on Wesley — and on thousands of Hokies — cannot be overstated.

Glenn's ministry was multi-faceted, but his creation of the Wesley Singers was such an integral part of his ministry at Wesley. At a time when the ministry at Wesley was struggling and searching for an identity, Glenn revitalized the ministry through a singing group that brought so much joy and fellowship to many Wesley students through his 35 years of ministry. The Wesley Singers would share about campus ministry and lead congregations in worship and music, go on Spring Tour in vans and busses, and created multiple CDs.

Glenn is famous for saying "I'd like to say a few words about campus ministry" when Wesley would be leading worship or visiting congregations. These "few words," however, were crucial! Glenn recognized the importance of campus ministry at a time when others might not have. His voice and work in Higher Education influenced the trajectory of campus ministry in the Virginia Annual Conference and the United Methodist Church in the world. The reason it wasn't just a "few words" is he knew that campus ministry needed to be elevated in the hearts and minds of the United Methodist Church so that students would be able to grow in their faith, become leaders, and then live out that faith in the local churches they would go on to be members of as adults.



During Glenn's 35 years of ministry at Wesley, he touched so many lives. He provided much needed pastoral care, leadership development, and lots of fellowship to students who needed a "home away from home."



As one alumnus, Tom Barnes, said on Wesley Weekend, "Glenn modeled [a] welcoming behavior for us all, and we passed it down. That to me was at the core of Glenn's ministry. It was welcoming people far from home, giving them a place to belong and sharing with us how to do that for others."

Through this welcoming and pastoral ministry with students many were called into ordained ministry in the UMC, led as laypeople in significant ways when they joined a church, and were able to navigate the challenging journey of college in a safe and loving environment.

His impact didn't just extend to Wesley. He was integral to the University, Blacksburg UMC, and Montgomery County as a whole. From leading the efforts to create the Montgomery County Christmas Store to running the Pairs and Spares class at BUMC, Glenn truly lived out his call to serve and love others unconditionally. His leadership during the most difficult time in Virginia Tech history on April 16, 2007 enabled the University, the Blacksburg Community, and Wesley to grieve, grow, and find comfort. He was a calming presence amidst the chaos and pain of that day and the weeks/months following.

All of this was done with his loving and supportive wife, LaVina, who was his assistant in ministry through it all. Their ministry together helped to create a positive, safe, and loving environment at Wesley. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as well as their whole family.

Even though our hearts are saddened at his passing, we celebrate Glenn's life remembering the amazing ministry he had at Wesley over the years. Wesley would not be what it is today without his ministry and his influence on campus ministry as a whole.

For those who would like more information, Glenn's obituary and details about the funeral arrangements can be found here:

<https://www.adamsgreen.com/obituaries/Leslie-Glenn-Tyndall?obId=47500253>

Rev. Bret Gresham

Alumni Announcements:

Bob Greenawalt (Alum, 1969) married Cindy Byrne in Stokestale, NC

Rachel Cannon exchanged vows with Javier Diaz in December 2025

A Note from the Student Campus Minister

Hello! I am Luke Henshaw, and I am the new Student Campus Minister (SCM) at Wesley. We had yet another wonderful semester filled with fun events and incredible opportunities.

Every single ministry area in Wesley has done some really awesome things in and outside of our community, so thank you to each and every one of you for all your hard work, care, and dedication to our campus ministry. Some highlights from the semester include our Welcome Back Weeks, our annual Valley Ridge District Youth Retreat, our Spring Break Mission Trip, our Wesley Formal and phenomenal intramural sports, and our excellent Prayer Vigil. These events scratch the surface for all of the incredible work Wesley has done.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this momentum as we move into the next year of ministry. Another super fun thing that happened this semester was the new Core Ministry Team (CMT) getting discerned. Our new CMT is filled with amazing students who are excited to continue doing amazing things. Altogether, this semester has been a powerful reminder of the care and dedication within our community. We are grateful for all that has been accomplished and look forward with hope and excitement to what lies ahead.

Spring Break

My name is Emma Anderson, and I led Spring Break this year. We had a group of 30 students attend our annual mission trip in Clemson, SC that blended meaningful work with deep connection. Throughout the week, we took part in a variety of construction projects, serving the local community through hands-on efforts while also engaging in relational ministry. Along the way, we built friendships and spent time listening to stories in community with our Wesley group as well as those we served.

This year, a huge highlight was the special opportunity to connect with Wesley students at Clemson Wesley! We joined them on our free day for dinner and stayed for their worship right after. It was so wonderful to experience something similar but also with its own uniqueness, meet new friends, and spend quality time with everyone. Overall, the trip was a great mix of loving out loud, relationship-building, and spiritual growth.



2026-2027 CMT

After months of hard work, our Discernment Team has determined our new CMT — thank you so much! The Core Ministry Team will lead all of Wesley for the next year, while spreading our mission of Loving Out Loud in the Blacksburg community and more.

Here is our new CMT:

Student Campus Minister: Luke Henshaw

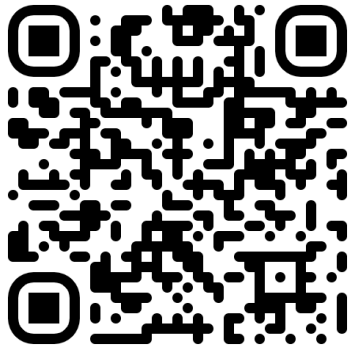
Discipleship Minister: Hannah Blake

Fellowship Minister: Griffin Hatcher

Missions Minister: Tala Sahab

Outreach Minister: Amanda Todd

Worship Minister: Laura Prince



Wesley Connect

We are excited to share that our Student Leadership and Board of Directors created an opportunity for students and alumni to connect in a whole new way. With the landscape of job opportunities, competition in the workplace, and the need for mentors, we believe this Wesley Connect program will enable our students to get meaningful help with resume' building, internships, and advice from people in their fields.

Our students will have access to the database to reach out to alums in their respective fields to seek guidance and support.

We ask that you all fill out this form (scan QR Code) to help us connect with you in this new and exciting way!

Discipleship

Communities of Grace (Wesley's Small Group Ministry) have had a great semester, giving students lots of different ways to connect and find community at Wesley. One of our favorite new additions this spring was Movie CoG, where students have been gathering each week in the Wesley building to watch movies, hang out, and spend time together. It has quickly become a favorite! Our other CoGs have all continued to be meaningful spaces for students to grow in faith, build friendships, ask questions, and support one another.

February also brought back one of our favorite traditions: CoG Wars! Throughout the month, CoGs competed for points by completing different challenges and activities. It was so fun to watch the friendly competition and see everyone get involved. After an exciting month, Freshman Affinity CoG took home the win and celebrated with a trip to Mellow Mushroom!

As the semester wraps up, the Discipleship Team has been hard at work planning Prayer Vigil Worship, one of our end-of-semester traditions. This worship night gives students a chance to reflect on everything Wesley has taught us this year and think about how we'll carry those lessons, memories, and relationships into the summer. After worship, we'll begin 24 hours of prayer, creating intentional space for reflection before finals.

- Hannah Blake



Discernment

As a Senior, I've spent lots of time involved in Wesley and in leadership among the community [Worship, Missions, Spring Break & Youth Retreat planning teams, Fun143, etc.] However, after multiple years of considering and backing down, I finally decided to be a part of the Discernment team and process this year! I've always heard how this process is unique, full of prayer, thoughtful, and priceless to Wesley's success as a team-based ministry. I finally made the time to be a part of the team this year, and it was one of my favorite Wesley experiences so far- which says a lot!

Discernment is the process of being reflective on the past year of leadership and active ministry in order to prayerfully discern the next group of leaders. Reflecting, being critical and thoughtful, and using my voice are some of my greatest strengths, and this context was the best way I could use these gifts. Throughout the process, the team grew closer together in trust, respect, and in a positive dynamic that efficiently led towards our goal of discernment the leadership for the coming year.

Overall, the discernment process is one of the most Christ-centered, intentional experiences I've been a part of while in Wesley, and I'm so grateful to have said yes to this called experience in my time as a Wesley student. I can already see how the skills I practiced in this setting with these peers will translate into my future and my leadership journey. I wish all the best to next year's community of leaders, servants, and peers as they grow together to embrace their strengths and work through the challenges along the way!

- Dori Mitchell

A Note from Your Board Chair

“What Wesley Gives Us—For a Lifetime”

There’s a way that memory works—especially when we look back on our college years. It softens the edges, highlights the moments, and tries to make sense of what it all meant.

When I think about my time at Wesley, it’s easy to remember what it wasn’t. There were no trend-setting megachurches. Nothing was viral. Worship was often traditional. The Vietnam War had just ended, and the world around us was marked by social and political upheaval. And yet, at Wesley, we knew there was something more to faith than what we had brought with us from high school—we just didn’t yet know what that was.



Under Glenn’s leadership, we explored that question together.

We led high-energy worship services in churches across Southwest Virginia. We went on mission trips. We gathered for retreats at Alta Mons. We played intramurals—sometimes even making it to the university finals. And in between it all, we built community: Sunday night programs, shared meals, and even watching the first episodes of Saturday Night Live together.

At the time, we were simply living in the moment—as college students do. What we couldn’t see then was how deeply those experiences would shape the rest of our lives. For me, participating in worship at Wesley led to a lifelong commitment to church choir. A mission trip to Grundy set the foundation for later service in places like Miami, Houston, and East Tennessee. The camaraderie of intramural teams shaped how I approached teamwork as an adult—whether in leagues or coaching in church settings. And, as life took us to new places, the community we experienced at Wesley gave us confidence that we could always find connection and belonging again.

Each of us carries our own version of Wesley. Just as there are many expressions of faith, there are many memories of this place. But what unites us is deeper—a shared experience of a community grounded in God’s love and grace. Today, that same spirit is alive and well.

Now serving as board chair, I’ve had the opportunity to see Wesley through the eyes of current students. You can see the strength of their faith on their faces and hear it in their voices. It’s inspiring—and in many ways, beyond what we could have imagined 50 years ago.

Wesley continues to form students in ways that last a lifetime. And now, through the Building with Love Capital Campaign, we have an opportunity to ensure that it continues to do so for generations to come .

- Fred Gibson

How Can You Help?

Do you love the incredible ministry that Wesley students are doing?

You can help directly support Wesley’s ministry by becoming a Wesley 23 donor! Wesley 23 donors also receive a special monthly email from Bret highlighting Wesley news, students, and prayer requests for the ministry. To find out more about becoming part of Wesley 23, scan the QR code to the right!



Student Impact: Nathaniel Spitzer

Hey everyone! I'm Nathaniel Spitzer, a junior studying aerospace engineering and astronomy. Despite this being my third year on campus, this is my first year at Wesley. My roommate Tyler had brought me to a few events and had me playing intramurals with Wesley before last semester, but I had never really considered joining until last fall.



Tyler invited me to go to one of Wesley's Welcome Week Events last semester, which was a Stiles Falls hike, and I intended to go to enjoy the hike and hang out with my roommate. At that time I had no intentions of joining Wesley, however that plan fell apart almost immediately as people I had never met before started talking to me and wanting to get to know me. Ultimately I ended up talking more with strangers than I did with Tyler. On the drive back from that hike I made the decision that this is where I wanted to spend my last two years of college.

The people I've had the chance to meet here have been nothing short of incredible, never once have I been here and not felt like I belong. Being embraced by so many people kept me coming back pretty much every day.

As soon as I started showing up more regularly, I was being asked to join anything I could fit into my schedule. Within the first month I was running sound for worship and helping plan the Spring Break Trip, despite the fact I had never run sound or been on a Wesley Spring Break. Since then I've also joined Community CoG, which is a small group focused on community building, as well as getting to start my own Movie CoG.

I might have no free time anymore as I keep finding things to be a part of, but I wouldn't trade my time here for anything and I wish I had joined much earlier.

Fellowship

Hey there! My name is Griffin, and I have had the privilege of serving as the Fellowship Minister for a little under two months. Throughout this spring semester, we've hosted a handful of events to spend quality time with this wonderful community. Our semester started very snowy and very busy, with our first event being an interfaith ping pong tournament alongside Newman, the Catholic Campus Ministry. Wesley students got far but couldn't take home the gold this time. In March, Fellowship held a craft night and a trivia night to get creative juices flowing and keep our brains acute. Spending these weeknights together as a community helps the super busy weeks seem more manageable. In April, we enjoyed some spring weather as a small crew hiked McAfee's Knob! We saw some very early signs of Spring blooming across the mountains and valleys. What a good way to see God's work at hand by going out and exploring our beautiful region! As the Spring semester came to a close, we got all dressed up to attend the 2026 Wesley Spring Formal! We gathered at the Whisner Building in Blacksburg United Methodist Church, where we broke bread (Chick-Fil-A catering) and danced the night away.. and looked good while doing so. A very special thanks to Emma Anderson (Senior 2026) for all her hard work planning and leading this event, and to Jacob Henshaw (Senior 2025) for coming into town and being a wonderful guest DJ! We're about to close off this chapter (at the time of writing) with our end-of-semester Cracker Barrel Reading Day Breakfast, where we'll join together in a meal and conversation as we get ready to take our exams and move on to our summer plans!

Youth Retreat

Hey there! My name is Griffin, and I led the Planning Team for the 2026 Valley Ridge District Youth Retreat! Our theme was 'Eyes Wide Open,' which gave the kids time to listen to messages and reflect on how they can view themselves and the world around them more like God.

During this weekend, we served just under 70 youth who belonged to seven churches! WOW. Throughout this weekend, the youth and volunteers engaged in worship, small groups, and games. We had a couple of things that were special to this year's retreat. The youth took a spiritual gifts inventory, where they learned how they could serve their community that fit them personally. The youth also went out and explored the ways to see God within their surroundings (all across Blacksburg).



This year, our retreat fell right within the Olympic Winter Games, so we held our own Wesley Olympics! We had a wonderful time connecting with the kids and giving them a space to get out of their daily routines to foster spiritual growth

Wesley Weekend 2026

Wesley Weekend offered more than a chance to reconnect—it gave us a glimpse into something much deeper. Over the course of the weekend, we saw what 80 years of ministry really looks like, not just in memories, but in people. Across generations, alumni, parents, students, and friends gathered and quickly fell into a familiar rhythm—sharing stories, laughter, and a deep sense of belonging. It was especially meaningful to witness relationships forming across decades. Alumni who once sat in the same spaces as our current students found themselves in conversation, offering encouragement, wisdom, and a shared understanding of what Wesley has meant in their lives.

There was a palpable sense that while much has changed over the years, the heart of Wesley has remained the same. It is still a place where students are known, where community is built, and where people are invited to grow into who they are called to be.

Throughout the weekend, I was struck by the collective spirit of Wesley—one organization, carried forward through time by each person who has walked through its doors. The time periods may differ, but the impact is unmistakably shared. I particularly felt it in the alumni choir but I can see it throughout the whole weekend.

I am so grateful to have been a part of Wesley and coming back for Wesley Weekend (as an alum and a staff person!) I am reminded just how much Wesley has impacted my life's trajectory.

Wesley Weekend reminds us that what happens here doesn't stay here. It continues in the lives of those who leave, shaping communities, churches, and relationships far beyond Blacksburg. - Minoka Yonts



Worship

Hey Wesley Community! My name is Laura, I'm a junior majoring in Chemistry at VT, and I'm Wesley's new worship minister. This semester, our community has continued coming together on Wednesday nights for engaging services. For me, worship is always a meditative time where I can forget about outside stresses and work on building my faith!

This semester, we were privileged to hear sermons from a variety of voices, including students, members of the BUMC Edges community, and, of course, our lovely campus minister, Bret. Our semester started with a popular, returning worship series, "Wesley Wrapped," where we heard multiple student testimonies about how specific worship music grounds and encourages people. Next, we did a series entitled "Duos" where Bret covered how the Bible relates "vulnerability and resilience", and "faith and works". After spring break, we spent time reflecting on the theme of "Failing Gracefully" and heard Franklin (from Edges) preach a sermon called "The Edge Dwellers" the following week.

That led us into holy week, where we had our traditional Tenebrae service followed by an Easter themed service where we were able to mourn, reflect, and celebrate the hope that Christ's death and resurrection bring to our lives. Lastly, we recently finished a sermon series entitled "Uncomfortable Conversations," where we were able to have conversations about dealing with discomfoting things in our lives. Looking back on the semester, I am encouraged by the difficult conversations our community is unafraid to have. I love how we foster an inclusive worship environment through the inclusion of both traditional and modern elements. All of this could not happen each week without support from our community of students. Worship team, AV team, and band all work together and selflessly give their time in meetings and practices, making sure that logistics run smoothly. Our band, "Faith Unshaken" practices 1-2 times per week in addition to playing on Wednesday nights. I'm super proud of all of our student musicians and their dedication to making Wesley's band sound great.



A huge part of the reason why the band sounds good is our amazing AV team, who manage the technological aspects behind our services. Looking to the future, I'm excited to work with our new worship team as we develop ideas for the fall semester. I have no doubt that this group will create a worship space where we can welcome new students with Wesley's message of "love out loud"!

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Outreach

Hello all! I'm Amanda Todd, a current sophomore majoring in Nutrition & Dietetics, and I am so excited to serve as Wesley's Outreach Minister! Outreach Team has been busy this semester and I am beyond excited and happy to share what we've been up to.

We started the first two weeks of the semester with our "Welcome Backs Weeks" and had 10 unique and awesome events to bring new faces into our community! We planned and hosted some of our favorite events such as Cookies & Cocoa and First Worship & S'mores! We even added brand new events like Benny's & Boards, Name That Tune, and Mac N' Mingle which were huge successes! During Welcome Back Weeks, Blacksburg got A TON of snow and we unfortunately had to postpone a couple events. One of those events was a brand new one called Pancake Palooza where we handed out freshly made pancakes to anyone who walked by so they could stay a little warmer in the frigid weather.

Being able to welcome our community and Virginia Tech students back to Blacksburg after winter break was really exciting and inspiring. Through all of the brainstorming, planning, and hosting of events throughout this semester we truly did "Love out Loud in our community. We are beyond thrilled to have formed and keep forming connections with members of the ministry, university, and the surrounding Blacksburg community.

After Welcome Back Weeks, Outreach Team went back to our regular schedule. We've been able to create a variety of graphics and content for our social media and website and have even gained some more traction and attention on these platforms! We have been working hard to create interactive posts, reels, and content that engage students, alumni, and parents.

The work of the creative team is essential for getting word out about our ministry and the events we put on! Recently, our creative team was able to design new stickers and t-shirts for this year's Wesley Weekend! We were beyond excited to see students, alumni, and families representing our mission and what Wesley is all about through these shirts and stickers.

To end our semester, we hosted a Pride Picnic (our 4th annual Pride Event!) where members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies could connect with inclusive organizations, have fun, eat yummy food, and celebrate Pride in safe space.

We are so grateful for the ways in which we were able to serve the community this semester and can't wait to continue serving next semester with more creative ideas and events.

Missions

Hello Everyone! My name is Tala Sahab and I am a sophomore pre-law student at VT and the missions minister here at Wesley! Some of Wesley's biggest service projects are Fun 143 and our spring break trip (talked about in detail in other sections). We also run a food pantry called 209 marketplace which is available for all students facing food insecurity. This year we have had a lot of tabling events for 209 which have allowed us to get bulk donations and keep our pantry stocked.

We have also done many stand alone projects that have been very meaningful. One of the things we did was Angle Tree where we partnered with the BUMC youth group to get christmas gifts for five kids in need. It was a great way to get connected to BUMC and to our NRV community. We also partnered with BUMC youth group to make school supply kits to be posted in a "little library" near Fun-143.

Wesley participated in the BIG event where we were able to do some house work for a home in our community. This is an event run yearly by Virginia Tech where thousands of students practice Virginia Tech's motto of "Ut Prosim", that I may serve. Along with that we participated in BUMC's event of RISE against hunger where we all together made 14,000 meals to be sent to developing nations facing famine. This was our biggest project in the sense of span and it was incredible to be able to partner with both BUMC and RISE to make that happen!



Fun 143

FUN 143 is a pillar of Wesley's mission efforts, and serving as a co-lead of the middle and high school tutoring program has been one of the most meaningful parts of my time at the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. The community and fellowship we've built with our students is incredibly rewarding, and it's been inspiring to watch their growth over the past year.

Throughout the year, we've worked with a small but consistent group of students who have grown not only academically, but socially and personally as well. We gather every Tuesday and Thursday evening to share dinner, work through homework, and spend time having fun together. These regular rhythms have created a space where students feel supported, known, and encouraged.

One of my favorite traditions is something we call "High, Low, Buffalo!" During dinner, often generously provided by the Blacksburg United Methodist Church community, each student shares a high and a low from their day, along with something completely random (the "buffalo"). Over time, I've seen a remarkable transformation in the students' confidence and willingness to share. It's often a race to see who gets to share first. What may have started as hesitant responses has grown into enthusiastic storytelling, honest reflection, and lots of laughter.

We also prioritize setting academic goals with each student. Watching them work toward these goals and begin to take pride in their learning has been incredibly impactful. There's nothing quite like witnessing that "aha" moment when a difficult concept finally clicks. It's a reminder of why this work matters so much.

Of course, FUN 143 would not be what it is without the dedicated tutors who give their time and energy each week. Members of the Wesley community show up not just as tutors, but as mentors, role models, and friends. Their commitment creates lasting relationships that extend far beyond homework help.

FUN 143 is more than a tutoring program, it's a place where students are encouraged to grow, where meaningful connections are formed, and where both students and volunteers are continually shaped by the experience.

Freshman Bio: Molly Sellers

Tell us about yourself. What is your major?

Hi! I'm Molly Sellers and I'm a Graphic Design major with a minor in Music!

How did you hear about Wesley?

I heard about it from my parents. They went to Wesley at their college (Auburn University), so I toured Wesley multiple times while looking at Virginia Tech and after I committed. When I moved into college, I already knew Wesley was a place I was going to check out, and I'm so glad that I did.



Why did you stay at Wesley?

Wesley has some of the kindest people I've met.

They are so accepting and so nice, and I truly found some of my closest friends here. I felt so welcomed early on, and that has led me to some of my favorite moments in my college career. Truly, the people here make Wesley what it is, and I'm so grateful I get to experience that.

Do you spend a lot of time at Wesley?

I am the #1 honorary resident at Wesley this year. I'm here so much that I've been told it's weird when I'm not sitting in the lobby in the evenings. Most recently, I was at Wesley until 5 a.m. doing a homework assignment, and I loved it. Wesley is like a second home to me, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

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

I am from Ellicott City MD, and I attend Glen Mar UMC back at home!

What have you been involved in at Wesley?

I got involved in the band, Faith Unshaken, as soon as I got here. I was a singer in the praise band at my home church, so I was eager and excited to sing here! This led me to joining worship team, which I am glad to be a part of. I am also now Graphics Star, so I'm excited to join outreach team for this upcoming year!

What has been your favorite thing so far? Why?

Late night conversations are my favorite thing at Wesley. I have stayed in the building until 3AM multiple times just chatting with friends. I've always been fond of late night talks, so having a space to just chat with my friends is the best.

love out loud

Alumni Spotlight - Steve and Susan Blalock Pearman

When were you at Wesley?

Steve 1973 – 1977, Susan 1975 – 1979

What was your most memorable experience at Wesley?

Susan – Grundy mission trip, Wesley Singers

Steve – Grundy mission trip, weekend retreats, Wesley Singers

What church do you attend now?

Members of Virginia Beach United Methodist Church since 1982. We moved to South Carolina in August 2025 and have not found a new church home here.

Activities within?

Susan – Founding member of Voyagers Sunday School class, Circle, Monday Morning Manna, Sisters in Christ, Community Food Pantry, Children’s Church Leader, Shut-in Outreach, Hospitality Committee

Steve - Founding member of Voyagers Sunday School class, Charles Wesley Choir

Positions held?

Susan – Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group Leader, Staff Parish Relations, Nominations Committee, Director Vacation Bible School, Local Missions Director for Circle, Education Committee

Steve – Chair Administrative Board, member Administrative Board, Chair Staff Parish Relations, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group Leader, Missions Committee.

How have you been connected to Wesley since graduating?

Well, we are still married to each other after meeting in Wesley 50 years ago 😊

- Foundation/Flame
- Financial support
- Contact with Glenn and Bret
- Social media posts
- Wesley Weekends

Do you stay connected to other Wesley Alumni?

Yes, via Wesley Weekends, visits, texting, and social media

What do you do for work?

Susan – Master of Education in Counseling – early childhood intervention specialist, social worker for Southeastern Training Center, case worker for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, high school, middle school, and pre-school teacher. Retired January 2025.

Steve – Medical Doctor - family physician with direct patient care for 40 years, Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer for Sentara Medical Group for 10 years, Medical Director for Care Innovation for Sentara Health. Semi-retired in January 2026 but still consulting.



Alumni Spotlight - Steve and Susan Blalock Pearman (Cont.)

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

Susan – working with youth and children

Steve – supporting my patients in maintaining their wellbeing and supporting clinicians to improve their work-life balance

Why did you choose this job?

We both love helping others!

Where do you live now?

Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

How did Wesley prepare you for work? Your life?

Wesley provided a foundation of faith and showed us we can minister in any job or situation. We learned compassion for others in all situations and that the Golden Rule always applies. It strengthened our sense of integrity, solidified our moral compass, and demonstrated that giving back to others is an essential component of a fulfilling life. It taught us that in every circumstance our faith gives us hope.

Anything else you would like us to know.

- Susan is a PK . Her father was a United Methodist Minister in the Virginia conference. She moved nine times and attended seven different schools between birth and turning eighteen.
- We are lifelong Virginians. We never lived anywhere outside the state until we moved to South Carolina in August 2025 to be close to Morgan, our daughter, Brian, her husband, and our two grandchildren, Connor Steven (age 4) and Jane Ryan (age 14 months).
- Virginia Tech and Wesley are an integral part of our life experiences and have influenced everything we have done since we graduated.



Finance Report

Total receipts through 3/30/26: \$35,268.64

Development Goal: \$107,117.80

Total disbursements through 3/30/26: \$27,748.20

Total budgeted for 2026: \$158,891.80

Donors for the Annual Fund: December 2025 - April 2026

Thank you for your generosity!

Tyler Allen	Brittlea and Andy Brown	Tom and Heather Eggleston	Kristin Herritage
Leanne Allen	Margaret Brown	Dick Eggleston	Jackson Herritage
Emma Anderson	Bob and Teri Byers-Koleas	Rebecca Elliff	Timothy Herritage
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Adella Bailey	Joseph Clarke	Jeshan Fernando	Lara Hughes
Elaine Bailey	Adam and Erica Coates	Ella Fitzgerald	Travis and Jennifer Hundley
Chloe Bailey	Stephen and Jennifer Coffey	Gail Fitzgerald	Gavin Hunt
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Development

Building for Today. Preparing for Tomorrow.

There is a lot of excitement around Wesley right now—and for good reason. With the launch of the Building with Love capital campaign, we are stepping into a bold vision for the future of this ministry: a space that is more accessible, more welcoming, and better equipped to serve students for generations to come.

We have seen some amazing momentum in the silent phase and now have moved into the public phase of this important project. Through some great matching challenges from donors and the generosity of those near and far we are about 75% of the way to our goal of 1.4 million.

It's a vision rooted in the belief that what happens at Wesley matters—not just for today's students, but for the Church and the world they will go on to shape.

And yet, alongside that future-focused work, something just as important is happening right now.

As you read in this Flame, students gather for worship. They show up for small groups, share meals, ask big questions, and find community in a place that feels like home. These moments are made possible by the steady, faithful support of our Annual Fund donors, which surpassed new heights in 2025 and we hope to do that again in 2026!

If the capital campaign is about building what's next, the Annual Fund is what sustains what is now. Both matter deeply. Both are essential to the mission.

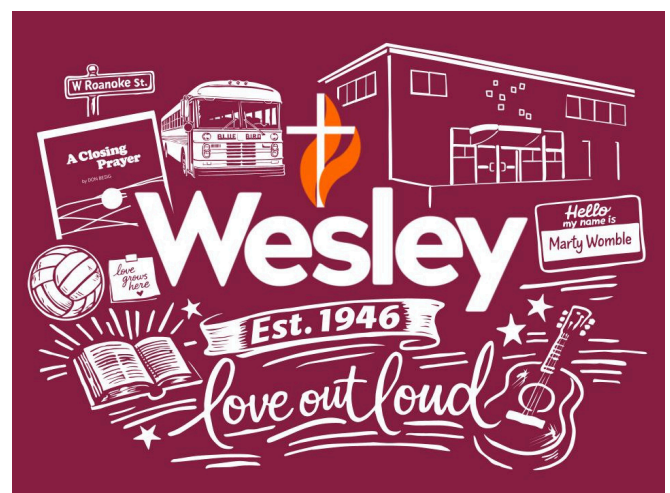
As we look ahead with excitement and gratitude, we are reminded that Wesley has always been built this way—through a community of people who believe in what God is doing here and choose to be part of it.

Whether you feel called to invest in the future through the capital campaign, or to sustain the daily rhythms of ministry through the Annual Fund, your generosity makes a real and lasting difference. Together, we are building something that holds both the present and the promise of what's to come.

I invite you to join us in this season of both sustaining and building—supporting the students who are here today with a gift to the Annual Fund and helping create a space for those who will come next with our capital campaign.



Minoka Yonts, Director of Development.



A Word from Bret

Over this past year I have had the opportunity to talk with so many alumni and friends of Wesley through the silent phase of our Capital Campaign. I always knew that Wesley had an impact on so many people, but these conversations only helped me to learn the extent of that impact. It has been a joy to get to know alumni I hadn't met before and catch up with others I have not talked to in a while. A common thread throughout all of these calls is that Wesley is (was) a place where people built lifelong friendships through fellowship, worship, mission, and discipleship.

I will admit that making calls asking for money to support our "Building with Love" Capital Campaign is not within my spiritual gifts, however, I quickly found out that I really didn't need to ask...people wanted to support a Campaign for a place that has meant so much to them throughout college and their lives. The love that people have for Wesley, whether due to being a part of it as students or seeing its influence on the lives of their children, is immense. That love is evident in our ability to raise over \$1 Million in a year, but also in the ways that people are living out their faith and calling in life. Wesley's impact is immeasurable! This is due to the fact that Wesley provided so many people an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves and to be in community with others in life-giving ways.

My prayers and hopes are that Wesley will continue being that type of ministry. It is why this Campaign to give our building much needed love is so vital. The improvements will enable Wesley to be a ministry that provides community, leadership development, and a safe and accessible "home away from home" for students for years to come.

In my 16 years in ministry with students at Wesley, I have had the opportunity to journey with students in times of joy and sadness, to laugh and to cry, to see students grow in their faith and leadership, to witness friendships and relationships blossom, to see alumni live out their callings and build families, and to get a front row seat in some of the biggest moments of students and alumni's lives. I am so grateful to be a part of all of this! It is a privilege and honor to be a part of a faith community that truly lives out what being the Church is all about. **Love grows here** at Wesley and every person that has been impacted in such a positive way by this ministry is truly **loving out loud** as faithful and grace-filled disciples in the world.

As I said to start, talking with alumni and friends of Wesley this past year for the Campaign was such a blessing. If you want to connect and talk about Wesley, the Campaign, or just to catch up or meet each other, then please let me know. We can easily set up a Zoom call! Email me and we will find a time!

Capital Campaign Town Hall

Want to know more about the "Building With Love" Capital Campaign? We will be holding a Town Hall to discuss the process that got us to this point, the plans for the building, and ways that you can support it!

On **May 26th at 8pm EST** there will be a Zoom call for anyone interested in knowing more.

Our Campaign Goal is \$1.4 Million and we are excited to share that we are at \$1 Million right now!! Help us get to our goal so we can make Wesley a "home away from home" for students for years to come!



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