



The Flame

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Spring 2022



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Budget Update

Through March 31, 2022

Reported as: (Budgeted for year / amount through March 31, 2022)

Expenses: (\$104,608.88 / \$26,423.47)

Receipts: (\$104,608.88 / \$22,731.49)

Development: (\$61,744.88 / \$16,234.09)

Net Balance: (\$0/ -\$3,691.98)

Letter from the Board

Our Wesley ministry continues to be vibrant and impactful on the lives of our students and those that they touch on the Virginia Tech campus, in the Blacksburg community, and in our extended mission field. I am very proud of the time and effort that many Wesley students spent with Bret in Tuskegee, Alabama during Spring Break. The efforts of our mission team were impactful to the community and even recognized by the Mayor of Tuskegee! As I mentioned in December, Wesley VT continues a strong outreach effort of the VT campus while demonstrating their faith in Christ through worship, tutoring students, and continuing to meet in small groups (Communities of Grace) to explore current issues and to put their faith in action.

Our job on the Wesley at VT Board is to support the efforts of Bret, Kelly, and our students with our prayers, guidance, and financial contributions. I have served on the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the Virginia Annual Conference (effectively most of the state of Virginia) for the past academic year. The BHECM guides and helps to support all campus ministries in Virginia. My service on that Board has made it clear that the efforts of our students and Bret's student led ministry model have driven the most active and effective ministry in our region. In addition to developing their faith and discipleship lives at Wesley, many of our students learn valuable leadership skills that carry through life, whether leading in church or a career/profession.

As alumni and friends of the Wesley VT ministry, we should all take great pride in

the development of the fine young people that find their stride in life and faith while participating in our ministry. The Wesley VT "Discernment" process has once again led to a smooth change in our student leadership for the next academic year, as the discernment of skills and fit for members of the Core Ministry Team occur with Bret's guidance and leadership as the students form their leadership team.

The Wesley students and our Board Development Committee have made excellent progress as we continue to evolve our fundraising capacity to support and grow the ministry. As an official Virginia Tech student organization, Wesley at Virginia Tech has now linked with the University Development Department so that contributions made to Virginia Tech can be designated to Wesley. The donor then receives credit for a contribution to Virginia Tech while Wesley receives the donation. On Virginia Tech's Annual Giving Day, our Wesley students promoted donations artfully and Wesley finished second among all VT Student Organizations in our Giving Day fundraising efforts. We will continue to work hard on our annual fundraising efforts as well.

The Board's next steps in our fundraising efforts will determine the future of our facility renovations. We will need to raise in excess of \$1 million to renovate the Wesley building at 209 Roanoke Street for handicapped accessibility, new HVAC systems, life/safety improvements such as points of egress and sprinkler systems, renovation and relocation of residents' rooms, electrical

systems improvements, etc. Our architects have recently completed drawings that will provide detailed blueprints for the renovations. These detailed plans will provide the information needed for contractors to bid on the renovations – very exciting!

We are truly blessed to have Bret and Kelly leading our Wesley ministry at Virginia Tech. We just completed our annual evaluation process from Board and students for Bret, and as usual, the reviews proved stellar. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Doug Forrester, was also very complimentary of Bret's performance and very encouraging relative to his support for our ministry.

Finally, you should know that with the advent of Zoom meetings during COVID, the Board decided that we do not need to have only representatives on the Board who live in Southwest Virginia. We have added Fred Gibson to the Board, a valuable member who lives in Tennessee. If you would like to participate on our Board in the future, please know that you do not have to live close to the Virginia Tech campus to serve on our Board.

I hope that the season of Lent and Easter in 2022 brought you joy and hope in the knowledge of Christ's resurrection for all of us. At Wesley Virginia Tech, seeing our students at work gives me great hope in the future because of the quality of our young people.

May God Bless you every day,
David Riggan
Board Chair

Announcements

Wayland Vaughan Lewis

Born to Rick and Alexis Lewis

Born 11/22/21



Sara (Riggan) Rutherford ('05)
Receiving MS in Agricultural and
Life Sciences with a
concentration in education from
VT May 2022

Charlotte Anne

2nd daughter of Katie
McDaniel

Born 9/17/21



SCM Report

Avery Rhem

Hello! My name is Avery Rhem and I am very excited to be this year's Student Campus Minister (SCM) for Wesley. I am extremely grateful to be able to serve my friends in this amazing community and interact with everyone even more. Over the past two years of being a part of Wesley I have grown to love this building and all of the people in it. Being here has definitely helped me grow into more of the person I always wanted to be. When I was discerned to be SCM I was very shocked but I knew that it was something that I was called to do, and I haven't regretted it at all.

I am really looking forward to working with my peers for the rest of our time on the Core Ministry Team, being able to organize events and just be around Wesley to interact with new and fantastic peo-

ple is really exciting. Now that things seem to be going back to normal we have the opportunity to bring more people into our community, whether they be new or returning students. For the



past month and a half the energy in the building has seen a dramatic shift, with everyone being very happy to see each other and there have been so many smiles as people enter the building. I for one am extremely excited to greet next year's incoming students and welcome them to both Virginia Tech and Wesley, hoping that they will be able to find the same happiness that I have, and be able to grow into the people they were meant to be. Overall next year looks very promising and I know that myself and the rest of CMT will be working hard to make sure others feel welcome in Wesley, providing them with a caring and loving community that also loves to have fun! I am looking forward to serving everyone as best as I can and being worthy of this opportunity I have been given.

Social Media

Skyler Bauman

Hi friends! This is Skyler Bauman, a grad student at Wesley, here to give you the report on all things social media. Through our many social media platforms, we have been able to continuously connect with many students and alumni. By showcasing our loving community through posts and graphics, we hope to continue to outreach to the VT community and find students who feel they could find a home at Wesley as well as staying connected with alumni. While posting community events and pictures is always important, we have still been able to use social media as a means of advocacy for issues such as LGBTQIA+ rights and sustainability. Through forming a plan for posts and ensuring things go out in a timely manner, we have been able to keep our community informed on events and ways to get connected. Based on our Instagram insights, there has been a +254% increase in account engagement within the past month. This is due to our social media initiative of promoting posts and being consistent with graphics and colors. As we begin to form our social media team for the next year and transition to new leadership, we look forward to see what they will do with our social media presence and where they will take it!

Worship

Ethan Shaw

Worship this semester has been great! We have continued to have worship in person as we did last semester, but we also still run our livestream almost every week, and we have a few students that regularly attend via the livestream. We have had several interesting topics for sermon series this semester. One of the popular series was called "Wordles of Interest," where we discussed different five-letter words in the Bible, starting each worship with a Wordle to guess the word of the week. We looked at the words wrath, saved, and glory in different contexts. Another three-week series was called "Down and Dirty," which was focused on getting down and dirty doing mission work. For the first week, we heard testimonies from students who went on the Spring Break mission trip. For the follow-



ing weeks, we discussed why we do mission work, and then got down and dirty and did some mission work by making blessing bags for students to keep in their cars to give to people they see in need. Recently, we had a discussion during worship about making faith approachable, led by a student and Bret (shoutout to Matthew Shealy

for planning this)! During this conversation-style worship, students discussed what prayer is, how to read the Bible, what a faith journey is, and other topics related to faith in general. There was a lot of student participation, and everyone was very engaged in the conversation! In the next few weeks, we will be wrapping up our semester with our Senior Send-Off worship and our Prayer Vigil worship that occurs before the 24-hour Prayer Vigil that precedes exam week. Our band has also found some new members this semester, which is exciting! The hard work that the band puts in practicing every week always impresses me. The worship experience would not be the same without them! Soon we will be taking a break for the summer, but we are excited to start back up again for the fall semester!

Alumni Spotlight: Anna Bosco

Class of 2018

What was your most memorable experience at Wesley?

It's a tie between spring break trip to Edenton, NC and beating the club women's swim team in the Women's Innertube Water Polo Championship!

What church do you attend now?

Asbury UMC

How have you been connected to Wesley since graduating?

I am a board member on the property team starting in fall of 2021. I also enjoy following Wesley on Instagram and seeing what current students are up to.

Do you stay connected with other Wesley Alumni?

For sure! I have to credit Jessica (Class of 2017) with most of my social life. We both stayed in the NRV after graduation, and she is great at bringing people together—we enjoy regular board game nights and brewery trips with both new and Wesley friends alike. I've also taken several weekend trips to see my Wesley friends to places like Richmond, Raleigh, and Myrtle Beach.

What do you do for work?

I am a Project Engineer for a heavy civil contractor, which means I help build highways, waterline, and sewer. After



traveling all over the region, I am excited to finally have a local project—we are building a new turn lane at the intersection of Lowe's and Outback in Christiansburg. Give me a wave if you're driving by!

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

Getting to be outside everyday and watch engineering plans become reality.

I also enjoy getting to share unsolicited roadway design trivia while on road trips.

Why did you choose this job?

I chose heavy civil construction because it is a field where I get to use my Civil Engineering degree and be outside everyday. I've stayed at my current job because I enjoy working for a small(ish) family-owned company.

How did Wesley prepare you for work? For life?

A skill that has served me well in my job is being able to connect with all different kinds of people. Wesley prepared me for this well—whether it was talking to a nervous freshman at life size board game night, a spring break homeowner, or a drunk student downtown at hotdog handout—Wesley repeatedly placed me in situations where I had to learn to connect with someone quickly and effectively.

Giving Day

Jessica Dodson

Hey y'all! For those of you who don't know me, I'm Jessica Dodson (VT Wesley Class of 2017) and I'm currently serving as our Development Team Chair. I wanted to drop onto this page of the Flame to brag on our students and heap some major gratitude on all of our donors!

In case you missed the swarm of Virginia Tech emails in your inbox, VT's annual Giving Day was from Feb. 23rd at noon until Feb 24 at noon (24hrs) and Wesley brought the heat in a friendly competition among other student organizations to receive donations from the most amount of donors.

When I say "brought the heat," I mean it! Our students spent the day relentlessly promoting Giving Day on social media and calling friends to remind them to donate. I even heard that some students Venmo'd donations to family members to send in to secure a new unique donor. THAT is commitment and my heart was bursting with pride all day. I hope yours is too reading about it.

BUT BACK TO THE RESULTS: I'm happy to announce that Wesley secured second place among student organizations with a total of 194 donors!

Wesley won \$1,250 for our second place finish, and we also won the Young Alumni Donors Challenge for \$2,000! Those awards, plus the very generous gifts from donors, brought our total amount raised on Giving Day to \$11,366.75

I really can not overstate how much these donations enable us to continue the impactful ministry you've read about in the Flame. Thank you so much for partnering with us in ministry, it means the world to these students!

Spring Break

Lydia Stonerook

After a year off due to COVID, Wesley was able to take 22 students, Bret, and our friends Joe and Donnie, down to Tuskegee AL for our annual mission trip! After spending a day in Atlanta to worship with Neighborhood church and eat some amazing biscuits, we spent four days working with the community in and around Tuskegee. A group worked at a food bank all week, re-packaging damaged products and ensuring quality for those who utilized the bank. Another



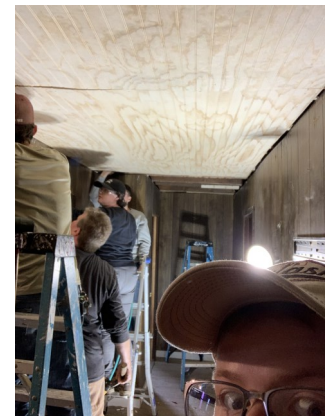
group repaired flooring, ceiling joists, and ceiling tiles in an old house. A third group went to several sites, which included installing flooring, tarping a roof (to protect from further water damage), and finishing up a porch that had been damaged in a tornado in 2019. The last group spent the week at a local park in Tuskegee, picking up trash, weeding, painting, chain-sawing trees, and shoveling grass to reveal a path.

On our day off, students drove to Auburn where we were able to enjoy the university's campus, eat some delicious



ice cream and food at a restaurant called "Irritable Bao". This was a great way to recharge in the middle of the work week, and gave us a final push to finish our projects.

We were also able to learn about the history of Tuskegee and the cycle of poverty many citizens were experiencing. Although we were only there for a few days, these individual's made an impact on the way our students viewed missions and our ability to work with communities to end inequality and poverty.



Cleaning Day

Emily Anne

Happy Spring!! I'm Emily Anne, a senior studying Animal Sciences, here to tell you about what we've been up to around the building this semester. This Spring we got together to clean, declutter, and paint the building! On April 3rd, we organized decluttering and cleaning up around the building. We tackled deep cleaning the prayer chapel carpet with a rental cleaner and boy was it gross! Students helped remove old and broken furniture, trash, and boxes and boxes of old binders. We also cleaned and disinfected surfaces as well as stocked bathrooms with supplies for students to use. We reorganized the TV room to have a better flow and officially changed the

old Computer room to a Quiet Study room in which students can reserve times to have the room for meetings, presentations, interviews, etc. The next step was to spruce up the building with a painting day on April 24th. This includes repainting the prayer wall chalkboard, rehangng string lights in the MPR, and adding a newly painted affirmation wall to the front of the stairs. Students helped to paint the wooden slats of the wall in front of the stairs leading to the second and third floors in a pastel rainbow pattern. Another group of students wanted to move the affirmation board to create an entire affirmation wall for students to write and receive

affirmations from! All of these ideas and planning were dreamt up by many new and returning students. This upcoming 2022-23 school year includes a new Aesthetics Star and a team for the first time ever! Sammie Boyer, a freshman studying International Relations, is next year's Aesthetics Star which is now a part of the Fellowship Team. Sammie jumped in feet first at Wesley this year and expressed a major interest in improving the building, she helped spearhead Cleaning and Painting Days this Spring! She and her team have many ideas for the future aesthetic of Wesley, including painting an outdoor mural by the sand volleyball court!

Discipleship

Riley Kaufman

Hello! My name is Riley Kaufman and I am the Discipleship Minister here at Wesley. We have been busy this semester! CoGs participated in our first ever CoG Olympics, bonded while cooking family dinners and baking animal treats for the local animal shelter, and more. Additionally, we renamed Spiritual Formation Partners (SFPs) to Friends in Grace (FiGs) which has helped many more of our students become involved! Our newly discerned discipleship team for the upcoming year is busy planning our prayer vigil service and reimagining what discipleship can look like for the future of Wesley. Since this is my first year on CMT I look forward to an abundant year seeing what my team and I can do!

Discernment

Nolan Englund

Hello everyone!

My name is Nolan Englund, and I am a graduating senior here at Wesley. One of the most important processes that happens here at Wesley is defining the goals our ministry has each academic year. This is done through a process called Discernment.

Discernment is a prayer-based decision-making process done by a team of 7-8 Wesley students, including the current SCM and Bret. Starting in late October, this team meets once a week getting to know each other, running through team building exercises, and getting familiar with each other's personalities and decision-making styles. This helps the rest of the process go more smoothly and helps to resolve conflicts easier.

After getting to know the team, discernment begins to analyze and define the context and needs for each of our 5 ministry areas: fellowship, discipleship, worship, outreach, and missions. This is done by discussing what worked and what didn't within each ministry area based on the previous year. Doing so helps to determine which events should be repeated or done away with the following year. After determining context, the next step is defining the roles and responsibilities of the minister of each ministry area, as well as the SCM. This helps to clearly define what the minister is responsible for and what the team should be responsible for in the upcoming year.

With minister role and responsibilities

determined, the final step in the process starts to take place: the lifting up of names. While discernment is talking about context and roles and responsibilities, Wesley is collecting forms called Wesley Information, Interest, and Involvement (WIII) sheets. These forms let discernment know which people of Wesley would be interested in serving on the Core Ministry Team (CMT) or have interest on serving on just a ministry team. Discernment uses this information to lift up names and talk about each person's strengths and liabilities to help discern the right person for the role. After about 6-8 weeks of prayerful discussion, Discernment reveals the new CMT ideally right before spring break to allow for a few weeks transition between old CMT and new CMT.

Outreach

Andrew Mudd

Hello! My name is Andrew Mudd, and I am the Outreach Minister for the 2022-2023 school year. On Friday, April 8, Wesley hosted our first Pride Picnic during Virginia Tech Pride Week. Hosted at our building, we invited several inclusive, affirming, and empowering organizations at Virginia Tech to participate. Despite the weather, about 120 people came out, beating our estimates! We provided hamburgers and hotdogs (and allergen-free/vegan entrees), and we utilized the building for several fun activities and relationship-making opportunities. People lounged around the building and ate while meeting new people from around campus; some played chess and other games, took photos with friends and painted on our collaborative mural. Since the Pride Picnic, we have connected several people to our ministry. It was an awesome experience, and I hope that we can continue to host it in the future.

At the beginning of March, we completed the first annual Wesley Olympics, a month-long competition among Wesley's Communities of Grace put on by the Outreach Team as a way to promote engagement and participation in COGs. With 50 different activities that could be completed and bonus points to be earned, it came down to a single point separating first place from second, with the winning team earning a Wesley-sponsored dinner!



In mid-March, we tabled outside of Owen's Food Court on the residential side of campus. Along with handing out thrifed mugs, we polled those who stopped by on two consequential topics: doors or wheels (a viral trend) and pancakes or waffles. 236 people participated in the first poll (with "wheels" winning), and 446 people participated in the second (with "waffles" winning).



Our final March Outreach event was s'mores after Worship. People stuck around for an hour or so after worship to cook their s'mores and mingle, with three or four new people coming out to worship that night.

We have one more Outreach Event for this year, where we are tabling for Wesley's Wish Box—gathering exam season wishes for Prayer Vigil. I am very excited for next year's Outreach Team and events, with Welcome Week planning already underway! I hope to plan more interfaith and inter-organizational events next year, as well as working with the other ministry areas to grow Wesley in new ways. With a new batch of freshmen coming soon, and upperclassmen and graduate students looking for new opportunities in this post-COVID time, I can't wait to see what this next year has in store.



New Student Bio: Jacob Henshaw

Tell me about yourself.

I am an 18-year old freshman and my major is Marketing Management.

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

I am from Stephens City, VA. I have been going to church since I was a couple weeks old, and still attend when I go back home.

How did you hear about Wesley?

My parents were both members at Wesley when they attended VT. After I got into Tech, they encouraged me to check it out, which I did.

Why did you stay at Wesley?

I've been a member of Wesley for almost an entire school year now. I stayed because I enjoyed bonding with the other students. I can confidently say that I have formed more true friendships than I can count.

Do you spend a lot of time at Wesley?

This spring I have seen my time at Wesley grow. As I got more involved and got to know more people, I began to



spend more time there. Now, I am at the building at least once a day, a couple days out of the week.

What have you been involved in at Wesley?

For starters, I was on the spring break planning team. Following that, I joined the worship band. As of right now, I am

also on the Discipleship and Fellowship teams. I am also the worship leader for the upcoming year.

What has been your favorite thing so far? Why?

By far my favorite Wesley event was the spring break mission trip. Simply put, I got closer with a lot of my friends, and forged many new friendships. It was a great experience to spend a week in

mission with some of the most awesome people I can think of.

209 Marketplace

Evan Gross

209 Marketplace has been going well this spring and experienced a few events outside of the normal times we are open. For example, as an entry ticket to Wesley's Tie-Dye Night in February, participants were encouraged to bring at least one food item as a donation to 209 Marketplace, and participants were also given a quick tour of the Marketplace to spread the word. We have also received many generous donations from many individuals, as well as organizations including Alpha Phi Omega (APO), Newman Catholic Ministry, and VT Women's Club. We also set up a table outside Squires Student Center on one windy Friday in March to hand out flyers (pictured below). We handed out about 40 flyers. Pic-

tured are Emma Cook of Wesley (left) and myself (Evan Gross). Volunteers not pictured include Emma Rafferty of New Life Christian Fellowship (NLCF) and Mehjabeen Khawaja. We appreciate all the continued support of 209 Marketplace and hope to continue spreading the word and doing collaboration events!



Thank you to our 209 donors:

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry

Kimberly Messner

And all our volunteers!

Fellowship

Jacob Ivey

Hello, my name is Jacob Ivey, some call me Jivey, and I am this year's Fellowship Minister!

This semester Wesley has had some fun events! We had a sleepover themed party where we played board games including Catan and Uno, ate pizza, watched movies, and some even stayed the night.



We also saw the return of Family Dinners as the Covid policies relaxed. Several Communities of Grace (COGs) cooked amazing meals, including a ramen bar, loaded potatoes, and pot pies. We were also able to have Bret's cousins Bobio and

Terri serve their legendary mac and cheese!

As the weather is getting warmer, more and more people are playing volleyball both throughout the week days and before/after events such as family dinner.

Every other week we had a game night or a movie night, both of which were fairly popular. We've watched movies like Holes and Encanto and enjoyed popcorn on all of those nights.



When it comes to intramural sports we have played 5v5 basketball, ultimate frisbee, and everyone's

favorite: innertube water polo. While we didn't make it far into the playoffs for each of these sports, it was fun to be able to compete with one another this semester.



Since the Covid policies have relaxed, people have been attending more in-person events and have been using the building more to hang out and study. Organic events such as lunches, coffee runs, and walks have become more popular. We hope to continue these events in the fall semester, and can't wait for new students to join!

Fun143

Lauren Lowe

Fun143 has discovered new meanings, and new friends this semester! We have resumed normal operations since Virginia Tech has lifted COVID regulations and have been enjoying our time to mentor the kiddos over a hot meal again. We are looking to expand our reach and are excited to hand out our new and improved fliers so that we can continue to impact young lives in the local area.

In February we had the honor of having one of Virginia Tech's 2021-22 Men's Basketball Players, Justyn

Mutts, join us on a Monday evening. It was a joyous surprise for the kids and tutors alike! He spoke to the children about interpersonal skills, his family background, and how he played basketball on TV AND did his homework! Justyn will always be a friend of Wesley at VT, and we wish him the absolute best on his journey.



Donors: December 1, 2021 — March 31, 2022

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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 General Program Fund

\$7 goes towards our Missions Fund

\$2 goes towards building our reserves

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

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