



WEAVINGS

Summer 2017

AY 2016 - 2017 - A Year of Outreach Faith & Social Justice - - The Message of Hope

Max's Musings...

This year has been another amazing year of ministry at Wesley. The number of students, their passionate commitment to following Jesus, as well as our mission and ministry, are all strong. Our campus ministry community continues to lead the way, as our vision statement says, "Through following Jesus, we embrace God's radical hospitality towards all." Not only are the students involved in Wesley aware of the grace and love that is embodied here, other students and the college recognize it as well. The students are following Jesus and leading the way.

This spring semester, we are building on the momentum from our powerful fall focus on Faith and Social Justice for our theme of Hope and... Thus, each Sunday night Large Group focuses on different ways that hope can impact our faith and our lives. Our Bible Study, as well as our Faith and Fellowship events, has the same themes.

Students are coordinating our partnerships with local churches in mission and ministry, as our connections with Williamsburg and Wellspring continue to be strong. Nothing exemplifies this better than the Exam Break that we have at the end of each semester, led by the Williamsburg UMC United Methodist Men. We have over 200 students coming to the Wesley House to share in over 450 cookies, gallons of hot chocolate, water, coffee, and lemonade. In addition, we have folks from all three churches and the community bring 8-10 dogs to help relieve the stress of finals.

In addition, we are also partnering with Williamsburg UMC in their respite and homeless shelter ministries, as well as their new community kitchen as well.

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Fall 2017

Love Your Neighbor...
 Your Muslim Neighbor
 Your Jewish Neighbor
 Your Christian Neighbor
 Your Atheist Neighbor
 Your Immigrant Neighbor
 Your LGBTQIA Neighbor
 Your Black Neighbor
 Your White Neighbor
 Your Racist Neighbor
 Your Addicted Neighbor
 Your Homeless Neighbor
 Your Suffering Neighbor

Outreach

Max's Musings... continued..

Wesley has also begun two new initiatives this year. First, is an outreach to international students and scholars on campus. We are focusing our outreach on building relationships and meeting the needs of these students, especially during the breaks, when they are the most isolated, providing meals and times to come together. As the relationships grow, the ministry will grow as well. Second, Wesley is partnering with the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail to provide activities for the persons incarcerated there. We look forward to all the opportunities for embodying the love and grace of God than we can even imagine now.

Our partnerships with other campus ministries and student groups in events, service, mission, and ministry continue to grow. Already this year, Wesley has partnered with the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Episcopal campus ministries, as well as the Muslim Student Association from hosting speakers, to partnering in events, to joining together in service projects. Furthermore, Wesley continues meet the very real needs of students in crisis on campus. Finally, Wesley continues each semester to coordinate a service day at Shalom Farms and an interfaith worship service for the entire campus community. It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve with the students and board of The Wesley Foundation, as the students actively follow Jesus and embody God's radical hospitality for persons on campus, locally, regionally, and beyond.

*Peace,
Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister*

End of Year Celebrations: In the Wesley tradition, we had a wonderful dinner and great fellowship with our students, reflecting on the 2016-2017 academic year and recognizing our graduates. We also had a graduation brunch for seniors and their parents. Here are a few of the photos:



End of Year Banquet



Honoring President Sadie



Sara Grace says it all



Dominique's Parents (& Max)



Dominique, Emily, Sadie



Erica's Parents

Meet the Leadership Team Graduates!

The graduates that served on the Student Leadership Teams during their tenure shared their plans for this summer and beyond. Max comes up with phrases each year that he feels best describe each of our graduates. The phrase that describes the leadership team:

- Emily Crawford: *Ruthless Persistence*
- Dominique Rowinski: *Adventurous Hospitality*
- Sadie Meadows: *I will fight you! Fierce*
- Erica West: *Courageous Compassion*

These students led us through some of the most meaningful, challenging, transformative years of our ministry. Their legacies live on in the lives of students not just at Wesley, but across the campus and beyond. That's the thing about love and grace and compassion, it just keeps multiplying



Emily Crawford:

Major: Neuroscience Hometown: Front Royal, VA

Emily had just a few days to rest after graduation before beginning work as a fellow at Jill's House, a Christian nonprofit in Vienna that provides respite care and support services to children with intellectual disabilities and their families. After this year, she plans on applying to grad school to pursue a career in public health.



Dominique Rowinski:

Major: Government with a minor in East Asian Studies

Hometown: Alexandria, VA

After finishing up traveling and working this summer, Dominique is planning on working in East Asia for the next year. Then who knows that adventures await her!



Sadie Meadows:

Major: Psychology & Gender Studies/Women's Studies

Hometown: Orange, VA

This summer Sadie is working at a facility that cares for adults with disabilities. In the fall she will begin the Master's in Social Work program at Virginia Commonwealth University.



Erica West:

Major: American Studies and Government

Hometown: Alexandria, VA

Erica received the Walk the Talk Award from the Office of Community Engagement, the Excellence in Activism Award from the W&M NAACP and the Ewell Award, a senior award given to members of the graduating class who "best exemplify a liberal arts education." In the Fall, she will pursue her passion for faith and social justice by working as a faith-based community organizer at the Church Council of Greater Seattle through the Justice Leadership Program of the United Church of Christ.

Following Jesus and John Wesley: Love, Justice, Mercy, Truth

Wesley lives out the legacy of John Wesley, who preached and taught that our faith is lived out in love, justice, mercy, and truth, both in our personal and social lives. This was evidenced by his passionate work in prison reform, as well as this work to abolish slavery.

This past year, we provided the house as a sanctuary for students to come together to share, support, encourage, and act together to spread compassion and hope in the midst of harassment in the days following the presidential election. That also included a multi-faith

worship service and community dinner the next two Sunday evenings. We were active in a variety of interfaith and social justice events on campus. Max served on a panel on religious pluralism. Wesley provided the movie, "Of Many" for a Student Assembly screening and discussion of Muslim/Jewish cooperation. Wesley students and Max coordinating all the supplies and logistics for the "No Ban In My Name" rally on



campus that brought hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community members together in love and solidarity with our immigrant and Muslim students, faculty, and staff. Max was also one of the speakers. Max served on the planning committee and a Wesley student was one of the table guests for a series of discussions on campus, "The Daily Work of Justice."

So much of our faith and love and action is rooted in hospitality and embodying God's unconditional love and grace. Not surprisingly, this often involves food! Our annual Interfaith Super Bowl party was particularly significant this year because a new interfaith student organization was born there. As a result of conversations between Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Jain stu-

dents, students from our various religious organizations get together for lunch twice a month. The meals are an opportunity for the students to get know each other better, make sure that our groups know about each other's events. They also sponsored an Interfaith Potluck Dinner this past semester.

We are often invited to join in with other faith groups for their events, like this past semester when we joined the Muslim Student Association for their Fast-A-Thon and Hillel, the Jewish Student Group for their Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate.

Our winter retreat this year was focused on helping us grow in our faith, develop our own statements of faith, and learn from each other and others who are living out their faith in meaningful ways. We worshipped with the congregation at New Light Baptist Church in Richmond, and we participated in The March on Monument, as well as spending lots of time learning and listening to one another and God.



Supporting & Connecting with the Virginia Conference

United Methodist Men



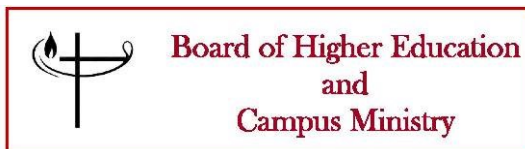
This summer has already been a busy one of mission and ministry across the annual conference and the district. Max was the keynote speaker for the 2017 Virginia United Methodist Men's Spiritual Advance at Randolph Macon College, June 9-11th. It was a wonderful weekend of sharing, singing, laughing, learning, growing, and encouraging one another. The focus of Max's sharing was on the life and times, teaching and actions, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and what does Jesus mean for us today. Our own board member, Ron Rumsey was in charge of one of the fund raisers at the retreat, a 2.5K run/walk for Heart Havens.

Annual Potato Drop



At Annual Conference, Max was once again the coordinator, along with the Society of St. Andrew, of the Potato Drop. It went off without a hitch, and it is the last one, because the conference is moving to doing hands-on local missions next year, and Max is looking forward to coordinating that effort.

BHECM



The W&M Wesley Foundation plays a key role in assisting all Virginia Conference Campus Ministries. Max Blalock serves on the board as the representative of all campus ministers, ensuring their views are considered in policies. John Dunning (Board) serves as the representative for all local boards, focusing on providing resources for local board development and representing a local board perspective in conference policy formation and implementation.

Annual Conference Participation



W&M Wesley had a table and lots of info about our campus ministry, as well as how all local churches in the conference can support their district campus ministries. Information on all of the Virginia Conference Campus Ministries was included. Wesley Board Chair, John Dunning, and Secretary, Susan Riggs led this outreach.

We also had our Wesley Annual Conference dinner where past and present Wesley students and campus ministers came together! Finally, one of our own graduates, Erica West, attended Saturday of annual conference to understand the church better, and connect with more persons in ministry.

2017 Fall Outreach - Love Your Neighbor



Partner with W&M Wesley Students in the Love Your Neighbor Fall Campaign Consider this a 2 for 1 Sale

For \$20 plus \$7 in mailing costs you will receive a Love Your Neighbor T-Shirt and provide the funding for a Wesley Student to get a “free” T-Shirt to spread the message on the W&M Campus while you spread the message in Your Community

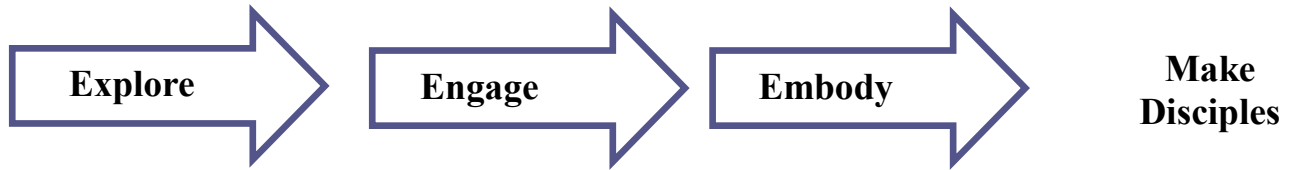
How to Order: To purchase your Wesley Love Your Neighbor T-Shirt go to www.wmwesley.org/donate and note the instructions for purchasing a t-shirt. You will be asked to click on the “Donate” button. Following this you will be asked to click on the “Add Special Instructions to the Seller” link. For special instructions indicate the size (S, M, L, XL) of the t-shirt you are ordering. Following this enter the amount (\$27), your credit card information, your billing address and your contact information. Your order will be confirmed by email and the t-shirt will be mailed to you. If you are ordering more than one t-shirt - you will only need to pay one \$7 shipping fee.

How this Works: The average cost of an individual t-shirt is \$10. By paying \$20 you get a t-shirt and a student will receive a t-shirt. The \$7.00 covers the mailing costs. Consider this a partnership!!

Our Goal: Transforming Our Campus. Our Community, Our World - remembering the commandments **Mark 12:30-(CEB)**

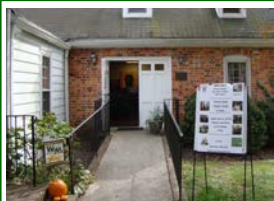
³⁰ and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.^[a] ³¹ The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself.^[b] No other commandment is greater than these.

Campus Ministry Metrics - Event Scheduling and Tracking



At the close of every academic year the Wesley Board evaluates the overall effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. One of many tools we use for evaluation is our metrics system of event scheduling and tracking. In general we schedule campus wide “explore” events that allow students to explore a faith in God (speaker, social event, spread the love event, etc.). We hope that this will encourage students to attend our “Engage” events that provide an opportunity for students to engage their faith in God (Bible study, worship, Sunday Night Program, etc.). The next type of event is the “Embody.” These events/activities allow students to embody their faith in God (mission or service project, lead worship, etc.) . While numbers do not tell the whole story, they are one means to measure our progress. The following table does show that the concept is working and gives you—our partners—a numbers view.

Category of Event	Events	Students	Non-Students	Total	Ave. Student Attendance
Explore	32	2406	398	2804	88
Engage	58	752	164	916	15
Embody	43	778	109	887	18
Totals	133	3936	671	4607	35



**Save the Date:
Homecoming and
Wesley Open House
October 22nd**

- **Wesley Open House 1:00—6:30**
- **Tailgate from 1:00—3:00**
- **Game Time - from 3:30—6:30**

If you don't have tickets—watch the game at the Wesley House



Supporting the Wesley Foundation

The Wesley operating budget is dependent on individual donations from alumni and friends. All donations, regardless of size, are greatly appreciated. You can provide a tax deductible donation in one of two ways:

- ◆ **On-line by credit card. Go to www.wmwesley.org/donate**
- ◆ **Mail a check to:
The Wesley Foundation
526 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4044**

Hindman's Kick Off Wesley Alumni Ambassador Duties

Submitted by David Hindman, Former Wesley Foundation Campus Minister

*“On the road again
Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway
We're the best of friends
Insisting that the world keep turning our way
And our way, is on the road again.”
-Willie Nelson*

One of the great pleasures of retirement is having the time to do things you can only imagine during your working years. From the beginning of our married life, Teri and I have dreamed of traveling in our years of leisure; as retirement drew closer we created a Travel Bucket List and added an important and exciting new dimension to it – traveling the USA *and* seeing Wesley Foundation alumni friends. That dream has become reality.

Last summer we traveled to Scotland* with several Wesley alumni and friends to see other alumni. In addition, Teri and I went to England to spend some glorious days with Kara Cooper '99.

Later in 2015 our daughter Grace '11 became engaged to Marc Fend, a wonderful man from Chicago. His parents graciously invited Teri and me to an engagement party in the Windy City area, and that seemed a wonderful opportunity to begin acting on our goal of visiting Wesley alumni in that part of God's world. Thanks to current campus minister Max Blalock and the Wesley Board of Directors, we are having a blast traveling as Wesley Alumni Ambassadors!

In wintry late December 2016 and January 2017, Teri planned an itinerary that took us through West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana to get us to Chicago; our return route wended its way back toward Virginia by a different route that took us to another section of Ohio and Pennsylvania. What a great time we had visiting with Elizabeth Campbell Firth '88 and her husband David and their children Susan and Ed; Jacob Gordon '02 and partner Phil Denbleyker; Isaac Hopkins '11 and fiancée Lina Schneider; Jason Kerins '92; Amy and Andrew Schumacher (both '05) and daughter Clara; and Jane Zauner '54 and her husband Dick

We had such fun that this spring we did it again, heading toward the warmer climes of Florida, where we saw three spring training exhibition MLB games while visiting Ben Hindman's ('13) wife's grandparents. Again Teri planned a route that took us through the southeast but different sections of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida as we had delightful times with Scott and Virginia Clay (both '90) and their children Thomas, Charlie and Caroline; Laura Hall French '98 and her daughter; Marcia Agness Kochel '91, husband Mike their children Will and Kate; Lilli Mann '07; Emily Peterson '11; Danielle Baker Ratliffe '99 and husband Mike; Sarah Richardson Turpin '91, husband Tom and their boys John Thomas and Will; and Rob Wilson '89.

What did the trips have in common, across the decades since folks had been students at W&M? A deep awareness of the privilege of having attended the Alma Mater of the Nation, an abiding appreciation for the friendships and memories connected specifically to the Wesley Foundation and gratitude for how that community broadened, stretched, challenged and contributed to the faith life of each person and continues to shape lives. Alumni almost universally expressed continued interest in the ministry today and its continuing commitments to hospitality, mission and service to others, social justice, and addressing controversial contemporary issues as people of faith.

Hindman's Kick Off Wesley Alumni Ambassador Duties

We were also delighted that almost every alum we visited happily took some “Wesley Bling” that Max Blalock provided for us to give away; far and away the most appreciated gift was the Wesley Tee with the message, “Love Thy Neighbor” that listed a broad array of neighbors to love (look elsewhere in this issue of Wesley Weavings to learn how you can order your very own, very cool tee with that message!)

What did Teri and I take away from our travels? How greatly blessed we continue to be because of the relationships that were first formed with alumni and that continue to the present day. We were deeply humbled and greatly appreciative of the reality that alumni were most gracious in agreeing to meet with us in our travels and to spend time with us, and delighted to see that alumni in other regions of the country wanted to know when we would be coming their way.

Teri and I are committed to continuing this Wesley adventure in our capacity as Alumni Ambassadors, so watch for us – we’re coming your way soon!

**Our journey to Scotland included Bryan '93 and Mona Hargrove Foster '91, Wendy Layman Lewis '92, Mary Reese Snellings '94 and her husband Ken and daughters Sarah and Michelle; our goal was to visit Aaron '94 and Cindy Poole Reeves '93 and their sons Teddy and Andrew.*

Other Recent Wesley Alumni Sightings by David and Teri Hindman...

- **Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton and Josh '08**, when David preached at Salem UMC in Mathews County, where Meghan is pastor, and baptized their son James Eno;
- **Karen Hemming '02**, when David preached at Powhatan UMC for Rev. John Hemming '99 while he was on a mission trip to Cambodia
- **Marcia Agness Kochel '91 and Louisa Turqman Kenny '91**, at the Women's March in Washington, DC on January 21
- **Lisa Bailey Mackey '91**, when David taught a kick-off session of a Lenten study on the Sermon on the Mount at Lisa's home church in Amherst County, VA;
- **Cheryl Pace Mackian '91**, as she, Teri and David caught up with one another for coffee when the Hindmans were in the Blacksburg area enjoying a vacation at Mountain Lake;
- **Tammy Smith '96**, when David made a presentation on Israel-Palestine and preached at Bethany UMC in Rustburg, VA
- **Mary Reese Snellings '94**, when she and her family hosted David overnight on his way to DC when he attended a daylong event on the Israel Lobby and American Policy at the National Press Club; David was surprised to be a seat mate of former presidential candidate and Arab American Ralph Nader
- **Rev. Allie Rosner Bass '06** and daughter Evelyn; **Josh and Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton '08** and James Eno; **Rev. Sarah Evancho '05**; **Rev. Sara Dumas Locke '05**, current campus minister Max Blalock, and former Board members Terri Morgan and Susan Riggs (and husband David) at the annual Virginia Annual Conference Wesley Alumni Gathering this year at Hampton

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- **Contact the Campus Minister, Rev. Max Blalock at: MWBlalock@wm.edu**

Hindman's Kick Off Wesley Alumni Ambassador Duties



Dick and Jane Zauner '54



Elizabeth Firth '88



Rob Wilson '89



The Clay family, Scott '90, Virginia '90, Caroline, Thomas and Charlie with Ben Thacker-Gwaltney '90



Marcia Agness Kochel '91 and Louisa Turqman Kenny '91 at the Women's March in Washington DC



Lisa Bailey Mackey '91



Cheryl Pace Macklin '91



Mike and Marcia Agness Kochel '91

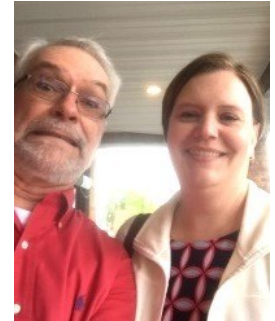
Hindman's Kick Off Wesley Alumni Ambassador Duties



The Turpin's - Tom , Sarah Anne (Richardson) '91, Will and John Thomas



Jason Kerins '92



Tammy Smith '96 with the "Ambassador"



Laura Hill French '98



Phil Debleyker and Jacob Gordon '02



Andrew '05 and Amy '05 Schumacher and daughter Clara



Mike and Danielle Baker '99 Ratliffe



Lilli Mann '07



Emily Peterson '11



Isaac Hopkins '11 and Lina Schneider

News From Our Alumni



Erin Grasse '16

I'm currently in the second year of my Master of Divinity program at the Claremont School of Theology out in Claremont, CA! Seminary is shaping up to be one of the most simultaneously challenging and wonderful experiences of my life, and I'm immensely grateful for the passionate, diverse, and loving community I've found at CST! And also that Southern California lacks the soul-suffocating humidity of Virginia. That part's especially nice. I'm spending the summer working as a circulation assistant in the CST library, and taking Methodist-specific classes online. In August/September, I'll begin my year-long internship at First United Methodist Church of Temple City through a multicultural internship program of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. The church is home to two congregations (one English-speaking and the other Mandarin-speaking) that are in the process of negotiating a potential merger, so I'm excited to not only witness and participate in that ongoing conversation, but also to have the opportunity to learn more about how to be an effective pastor in multicultural settings!

As of right now, my plan is to pursue ordination as an Elder in the UMC following graduation, although I am still in the process of discernment as to whether I'm being called to return to Virginia or remain in California. If it's the former, I'm hoping that God volunteers to drive back...

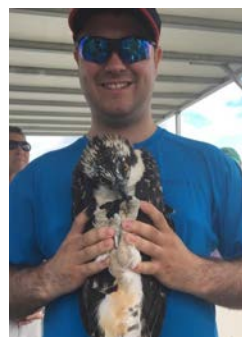
I love reading Wesley updates online, and I get many compliments on my Wesley t-shirts whenever I wear them around campus, so I hope you all continue to be awesomely interreligious, compassionate, and radically hospitable!



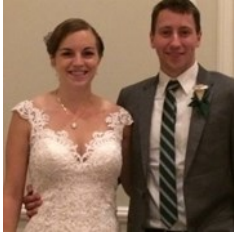
Jannette Morris ('15)

Andrew Bresson ('15)

Andrew ('15) and Jannette ('15) have both spent the past year in Maryland, Andrew continuing to work for the Boy Scouts and Jannette most recently completing a spring internship at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. In the past year they have done some exciting things, such as: acquiring a cat roommate named Aesop, going to NYC to see a Harry Potter spoof play called "Puffs", and participating in Osprey banding with a Maryland naturalist.



News From Our Alumni



Grace Hindman '11 and Marc Fend Wedding (*Part 1 Hashtag Report*)

Deborah Lewis (*Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation at UVA*) writes "What an honor to be part of Mr and Mrs. Marc and Grace Fend's big day! Best wedding hashtag (*#fendfortheirlives*) ever. An excellent theme - from the card catalog where we nabbed our table numbers, to the books on every table, to the sign-the-spines library guestbook... Thanks to Grace, especially, for entrusting the service to someone other than her dad, and to David, for suggesting me and trusting me, too. The UMC/Wesley connection was strong: I saw Caroline Grummon Lee's sister Katie Grummon Zapotoczny (she's bringing back a hug for you!) and Troy Rapp '93 and a whole passel of W&M Wesley folks who were glowing at having heard David recite the Great Thanksgiving liturgy once again while sitting together and lifting their voices with his in the old familiar cadences. Walking to the car, Woody Sherman said, "Wesley people are amazing and so cool, no matter which Wesley." Amen

Grace Hindman '11 and Marc Fend Wedding (*Part II – Alumni Report*)



Photo Courtesy of Robert Boag

The Wesley connection – Grace invited many of those from Wesley who continue to play a vital and vibrant role in her life. The W&M Wesley connection included: Vicki Bryan Crockett '93, Amy '89, Kent '87 and Emma '20 Diduch, Bryan '93 and Mona Hargrove Foster '91; Wendy Layman Lewis '92; Troy Rapp '93 and wife Jennifer; Sam '64 and Mary Liz Sadler '64; Chris Shaver '95; Katherine Hames Shaver '98, Emma Kate and Griffin; Mary Reese Snellings '94 and husband Ken; Andrew '99 and Katie Zapotoczny '01 and boys Will and Jake. Also Carol and Earnie Dyke, former Wesley Board members were also present..

News From Our Alumni



Laura Shoop Pitts '10

Laura and her husband Wayne welcomed their son, Alden James, on February 7, 2017. Laura is currently enjoying her sixth year of working as the manager of the Foster Care Adoption program at Children's Home Society in Richmond, VA. Wayne is a commercial underwriter for Alfa Alliance Insurance.

Sarah (Wastella) Evancho '05

Writes that I'm attaching a picture taken of William & Mary alumni and Campus Ministers who are clergy in the Virginia Annual Conference as we met up for our annual AC dinner and fellowship with our families. The Methodist spirit remains strong in those of us who were blessed to gain wisdom at William & Mary.



Allie (Rosner) Bass '06, Sara Dumas Locke '05, Sarah Evancho '05 and son Luke, Susan and David Riggs, Max Blalock, David Hindman, Josh and Meghan (Roth) Clayton '08 and son James.



Rachel Fitzgerald McNamara '05

I'm still living in Hyattsville, Maryland and working for the federal government. My husband, Doug (WM '04) and I have two great kids, Ella (5) and Flynn (2). Not a day goes by that I don't think about the influence being part of Wesley has had on my life. We are so lucky to get to worship at Mount Vernon Place UMC with some fellow Wesley alums (like Patrick Rowley, '05)! Hoping to cross paths with Amy and Andrew Schumacher (both '05 crew) when our family visits Chicago this summer. As of July 1, I'm rolling off as Chair of the University of Maryland's Wesley Foundation Board of Directors and am looking forward to finding new ways to serve the Church and the world!

News From Our Alumni

Cheryl Pace Mackian's '91

David Hindman writes that he paid a surprise visit to Cheryl's one-woman art show, "Five Hours in NY, More or Less," the opened July 7 at the Clifton Forge (VA) School of the Arts. If you are in the area, it is definitely worth a visit to see Cheryl's 18 magical pieces; the show runs through August 17.



Vivian DePeralta '03

My recent update is a praise report with a prayer request. In May (2017), I graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education with a Master of Education degree (Ed.M.) in School Leadership. (Praise God!) I feel a strong calling to lead a school and/or contribute to the efforts of school districts working to close achievement and opportunity gaps. Now, I am looking for employment and praying that God will bring me to the place and people to whom I am called to do this work. It was by God's hand that I applied, got admitted, and successfully completed my degree. I believe that He will finish the work he began in me, and I pray that he strengthens me in this waiting time while job searching. I look forward to reconnecting with Wesley in the next couple months.

Murry Unruh Edwards '81

My husband Jon and I are living in Middletown, RI, where we landed after he retired from the Navy. I have been a school librarian at St. Michael's Country Day School in Newport for the past 17 years and still have a few more years to go before I retire. I have two children, one of whom is living on a converted school bus and traveling around the country and the other of whom is getting married in July.

I have been active in my Episcopal church (that's what happens when a Methodist and a Catholic marry) ever since we moved here. I served on the Vestry for a number of years and was Senior Warden for a number of years as well. Currently, my greatest pleasure in attending church is being able to tell people, "I don't know the answer to that question, but you can ask the Senior Warden."

What I find amazing as I age is that the Wesley campus ministers whom I have known, not only at Wesley but growing up as a preacher's kid, are retiring. And those who seemed so old at the time really weren't that much older than I was. OUCH!

Supporting the Wesley Foundation



The Wesley operating budget is dependent on individual donations from alumni and friends. Please consider supporting the work of the campus ministry:

- ◆ On-line by credit card. Go to www.wmwesley.org/donate
- ◆ Mail a check to:

The Wesley Foundation
526 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4044

News From Our Alumni

Russell Smith '80



I attended the Methodist Church / Wesley Foundation from February of 1968 until 1980. The first two years, I was in the Army at Ft. Eustis. And then I was a graduate student at W&M. I will never forget the first Sunday. Having just joined the Army, I felt alone and away from any kind of a familiar environment. During the service, the organist played Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach, which felt just wonderful. At that time, Wesley Foundation met on Sunday evenings with dinner at 6:00 PM and a short program after that, finishing maybe 7:30 PM. It was the job of the students to make dinner, and someone was supposed to volunteer. One evening I made the all-time favorite Mexican dish, King Ranch casserole. This was nicer fare than we usually had. And two girls took it upon themselves to outdo me the next week.

During most of the time I was there, Braxton Allport was pastor. He was the only pastor I have known who held a Th.D. (Doctor of Theology). Usually about 40-50 students would attend on Sunday evenings. The students seemed to be an average group of young adults. I had what must have been one of the longest "tours of duty" at the college. This was because my dissertation took a long time. It was a history of the College from 1865 – 1919, which covered the administrations of Col. Ewell and Dr. Tyler. My dissertation failed in history. So, I went to the School of Education to finish it. Things really worked out there. And work on that dissertation was so exciting I would sometimes work through the night and then go to bed the next night.

During most of my tenure, Thomas Graves was president of W&M. He and I knew each other slightly. As far as I knew, his charming wife Zoey didn't know me from Adam's off ox. However, the day before commencement in 1980, my parents and I were walking through the receiving line in front of the President's House, and when we came to Mrs. Graves, she looked me straight in the eye and said, "Excuse me. But *how long have you been here?*"

I remember once or twice helping to give the program at WF. It was a warm and inviting environment. Braxton Allport was a likeable person. And I have good memories of being there.

What if God was one of us?

Would God be depressed? Would God be oppressed? Would God be stressed? Would God be blessed?

Would God be afraid?

Would God be insecure? Would God be unsure?

Would God be on the side of justice? Would God be at the rally, sit-in or the march? Would God write a meaningful status after bad things happened but never actually show up to change them?

Would God be the police, priest, or on Wall Street?

Would God "well, actually..." or would God listen?

Would we see God on 14th street on Saturday night?

Would we invite God to brunch on Sunday morning?

Would we see God in church? Would God be welcome?

Would God believe in God?

Where in the
WESLEY is
this?

(turn to page 6 to find out!!)



**ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY FOUNDATION
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