



November 2018

Exploring, Engaging, & Embodying An Active Faith in God

Max's Musings... 13 Candles

This semester began with the usual: New Student Brunch, Activities Fair, Share the Love, and S'Mores with S'Methodists. The second weekend of the semester was when things really took off, and you'll have to check out Sarah Grace's article inside to learn more. :)

There are 13 candles sitting on our altar table. They've been there the last four Sundays, at first, they were in memory of the 11 people murdered at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and the two murdered at Kroger in Louisville. The 11 were targeted because they were Jewish. The two because they were black. Then there were 13 more dead (12 victims and the murderer) in another mass shooting in California, and some of the victims were college students. We had a vigil on campus for the Tree of Life members, which Wesley supported, and a vigil for the Williamsburg Community. I was humbled to be one of the speakers at both. It's not a normal time in our nation, or on the campus of W&M. The bond across our faith communities could not be more important. That is why our close relationships with Hillel, the Jewish student group, the Muslim Student Association, and so many other student groups, are even more important. In so many ways large and small, we continue to embody the words of our vision statement: "Through following Jesus, we embrace God's radical hospitality towards all."

This issue of the Weavings starts with Summer at Wesley. We were involved in a two new programs, Summer Meals for Kids and Cultures and Cuisines for international students, as well as continuing to host the Williamsburg Summer Youth Achievement Program. Other items highlighted are the opening of a Campus Food Pantry at Wesley in January, our great new T-Shirts (which you can purchase), our Homecoming Open House, and alumni news. We are also in the process of doing some important upgrades to the Wesley House. Check-out the 5 year plan!

...Peace,
Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister

Inside this issue:

Summer at Wesley	2
Beloved Community	3
Tent of Nations	4
Food Pantry Pilot Program	4
The Wesley Board Transition	4
Partner with Wesley - T-Shirts	5
Homecoming Open House	6
Alumni News	7
Our Alumni Ambassador	8
Living at the Wesley House	9
The Wesley House 5 Year Plan	10

**Wesley Food Pantry
Pilot Program**



Summer at Wesley House

The Wesley House is always in some phase of serving our students or community. This summer we had three special programs: Summer Meals for Kids, Cultures and Cuisines, and the Williamsburg Summer Youth Program



The Summer Meals for Kids was a pilot program initiated by Stephanie Slocum, a member of our Wesley Board and a board member for Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission. It was a partnership between Wesley, Williamsburg UMC, ten more area churches, and over 20 nonprofits. The program received a grant from the William and Mary Office of Communi-

ty Engagement, in large part because of the work of our own Ailish Bova, our Leadership Team Fellowship Chair. Ailish lived at Wesley at no cost this summer as part of our support for the program and managed the entire day-to-day operations. For 11 weeks, lunches were packed at one of five designated sites (including Williamsburg United Methodist Church), and volunteers delivered the food to children that were temporarily living in four area motels. Each Thursday, Ailish would visit the motels to ensure an adequate number of meals were being delivered. She stated that they served around 50 children each week this summer and plan to expand in the future. She also stated that they would like to provide entertainment or recreation for the children, which is a challenge, since children range in age from kindergarten to early teens.

Cultures and Cuisines; English Through Cooking

The following was submitted for the Weavings by Jennifer Bommellie-Butler, an instructor in the English Language Program at the Reves Center for International Studies. As part of the Intensive English Language Program, this course is categorized as a "special topics" class. There were 4 students representing Puerto Rico, Cyprus, Italy, and Turkey. This summer we met for 3 hours once a week for five weeks in the kitchen and in the classroom. The Wesley House kitchen was a hub of learning, friendships, and building community. Deb, Max, and residents were invited to share in the food and conversations that were a part of this awesome program. We have continued to partner with the student from Turkey. It's another beautiful example of the way we embody the hospitality to which we are called.



Summer Youth Achievement Program

As we have for over a decade, Wesley hosted The Williamsburg Summer Youth Achievement Program (SYAP). The youth and their counselors met for 7-weeks from June 27th to August 12th from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Program participants engaged in daily activities and exercises that emphasized respect, role modeling, and responsibility through experiential activities that help to develop character, teamwork, citizenship, healthy lifestyles, and academic and career achievement. Participants have lunch at the William and Mary cafeteria, have some activities at the Quarterpath Recreation Center, and take weekly field trips around the Williamsburg area. The cake at the right was provided for the closing SYAP ceremony on August 12th in the Williamsburg Community Building. We're including this as Deb Wixted, the Wesley House Manager, was recognized at the ceremony.



Thanks Deb, for all you do for Wesley and our Williamsburg Community!!

Beloved Community By Sarah Grace Frary

This semester, we've had wonderful and exciting opportunities as a campus ministry to show our love, both inside the house and out! Our theme is The Beloved Community. The Beloved Community is a concept proposed and championed by civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Bell Hooks, and many others. The Beloved Community is a vision of a community or society which is founded on and supported by values of equality, justice, and respect and love for all. As we study how community leaders and faith leaders have used the concept of The Beloved Community to grow, heal, and transform, Wesley has been looking for ways to incorporate these principles into our own faith practices, into our campus engagement, and our broader communities. We welcomed many new students this semester with our freshman brunch and S'mores with S'methodists event, which was full of games in the front yard and a classic campfire for roasting marshmallows, and an introduction to our theme and who we are as a ministry.

POWER
 WITHOUT LOVE IS RECKLESS
 AND ABUSIVE, AND LOVE WITHOUT
 POWER IS SENTIMENTAL AND ANEMIC.
 POWER AT ITS BEST IS LOVE
 IMPLEMENTING THE DEMANDS OF
 JUSTICE, AND JUSTICE AT ITS BEST IS
 POWER CORRECTING EVERYTHING THAT
 STANDS AGAINST **LOVE.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Our very first Large Group fell on Rosh Hashanah, and Wesley helped to create some of the best interfaith cooperation and support I've ever been a part of. Temple Beth El, two doors down from us, did not have enough space to accommodate their Rosh Hashanah service, so while their congregation moved to the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist sanctuary, Wesley's first large group moved into Temple Beth El, and Hillel, the Jewish student association, used Wesley's fellowship hall for their own Rosh Hashanah dinner. It was an incredible way to start a semester about the Beloved Community-sitting in a space we shared with our Jewish neighbors, and opening our doors to them as well!

The Beloved Community has led us through this semester in countless different ways. We've used this theme to define and celebrate who we are as a ministry; in fact, our new T-shirts have a Martin Luther King, Jr. quote on the front: "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice". We've used it to explore other communities that we are a part of or aware of that either fulfill or deny these concepts, while using our country's current political and social climate as a lens to see how far we still have to go. Powerfully, we used - and continue to use - the idea of the Beloved Community as a beacon of hope in the midst of hatred and tragedy. After the anti-Semitic attack and murders at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and the racially-motivated killings of shoppers in Louisville, I found myself in great need of strength and courage to find faith in our society to stand up from the hate which rips it apart; a memorial service and recommitment to the Beloved Community as a part of the Large Group after those attacks renewed my faith and allowed me to find hope in the work to which Wesley has dedicated itself. We returned from a trip to Greensboro's International Civil Rights Center and Museum, which was inspiring and empowering, as we witnessed that communities like college students or young people are capable of building movements for lasting change.

Throughout it all, the connections with Christ's teachings of equality and justice, of love beyond borders and divisions, couldn't be more clear than with this theme and within our wonderful group of people and supporters.

Sarah Grace Frary is Wesley's Leadership Team President, and the Program Director at Camp Alta Mons, a United Methodist camp in Virginia, for the last two summers. Here she is (far right) taking a group selfie of those who walked the Riverwalk trail when we visited Danville and Greensboro.



Tent of Nations

On November 15th, Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian farmer and Director of the Tent of Nations (TON), visited the Wesley House and then spoke at William and Mary. The Tent of Nations is a peace and education center located on Nassar's 100-acre farm near Bethlehem. With a mission to build bridges of understanding, reconciliation, and peace between people and between people and the land, TON has a sign at the entrance to the farm proclaiming, "We Refuse to Be Enemies." Sharing in conversation with students and at the presentation on campus, Daoud was the embodiment of Jesus' call to love our neighbors and love our enemies. As he stated about those who are trying to take his farm and depict him as the enemy. "I do not have to view them as friends, but I can refuse to view them as my enemy." He went on to share, "In order for us to be good neighbors, we have to be treated equally."



Wesley Food Pantry Pilot Program

The Wesley Board approved a food pantry pilot program developed by a task force headed by Stephanie Slocum, our board committee chair of missions and service, and Kate Newell, our service and mission chair on the Student Leadership Team. The pilot program begins in January and runs through the spring semester. The pantry will be in the lower level of the Wesley House and open two afternoons a week. The initial volunteer operators of the pantry will be Wesley residents. At the conclusion of the pilot program, we will conduct an assessment of the need, the potential for expanding product offerings and access, and prepare a proposal for fall semester operations. We are partnering with staff at William and Mary on this project. The ultimate goal is to have a college-sponsored and run food pantry on the campus that meets the needs of all students and staff facing food insecurity. We know that this will likely not take place for many months at the earliest. Future editions of the Wesley Weavings will detail our progress.

The Wesley Board - A Year of Transition

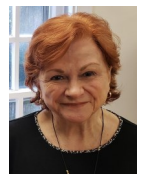
The strength of our campus ministry is directly dependent on the effectiveness of the Wesley board. Our board members are considered partners with our Student Leadership Team, our campus minister and our house manager. This past year the board chair, John Dunning, vice chair, Aaron Gregory, and hospitality chair, Mona Overturf, completed their years of service on the board. We appreciate all that they have done for Wesley.

The new board chair is Melissa MacIntyre, a Wesley alum, who has been serving as co-chair of property. Other continuing members are Susan Riggs (secretary), Bill Robins (treasurer), Beth Burroughs (finance/property), Karen Robins (hospitality) Donna Herman (hospitality/outreach), Stephanie Slocum (missions/service), Charles McConnell, (personnel) Jacob Evans (development), Ron Rumsey (property), Meghan Clayton (outreach), and Nancy Yarbrough (outreach). Our Student Leadership Team of Sarah Grace Frary (president), Lucia Butler (devotions), Ailish Bova (fellowship), Hannah Cooper (communications) are also on the board. New board members are Pam Dunning (board vice chair), Linda Hansell (finance chair), Fred Dellamura (property co-chair) and Kate Newell (SLT service/missions chair).

New Board Members



Pam Dunning



Linda Hansell



Fred Dellamura



Kate Newell

2018 Fall Outreach - Love Your Neighbor



FRONT

BACK

**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 the 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!!

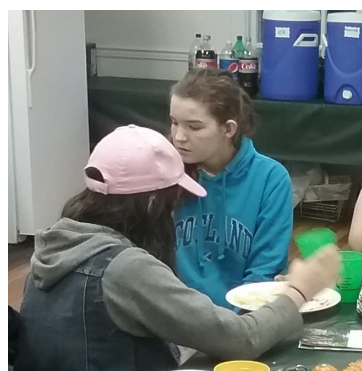
Our Goal: Transforming Our Campus, Our Community, Our World - remembering the commandments of Jesus in Mark 12:30 (CEB), “*you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, “You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.*”



Wesley Homecoming Open House & Tailgate



This year's open house was on October 21st from 1:00 to 6:30 pm. It included a pregame tailgate, a webcast of the game on the "big screen" and a wide assortment of photo albums and memorabilia. Although we had plenty of competition with other tailgates and open houses - as well as the game - we had more than fifty of our alumni, friends and family members present, enjoying the fellowship, the tailgate, and sharing Wesley memories. While most had tickets for the game, we catered to those who decided to watch the game on the big screen. We would like to extend a special thanks to the Wesley Board who provided a fantastic tailgate for our alumni and friends. A few of the pictures from the open house are shown below:



Wesley Weavings is published by the Wesley Foundation at the College of William and Mary.

- For content related items, contact John Dunning at: wmwesley-development@cox.net
- For address changes contact, Deb Wixted at: wmwesleyaa@hrcoxmail.com
- Contact the Campus Minister, Rev. Max Blalock at: mwblalock@wm.edu

News From Our Alumni

Alumni with “Future Alumni” at William and Mary

Kent ('87), Amy ('89) and Emma Diduch ('20) were at the Wesley Homecoming and Open House - their daughter Emma is a junior history major / biology minor who attends Wesley Sunday evening programs when she can. (She's also very active with UKirk, the Presbyterian group as well as APO, the pep band, and the Spotswood Society). Kent is the sports medicine physician for James Madison University and Amy teaches Economics at Mary Baldwin University.



Robin Gsellman Shafer '93 and John Shafer report that their son Clay Thomas Shafer, started at William and Mary this Fall! We are ecstatic!

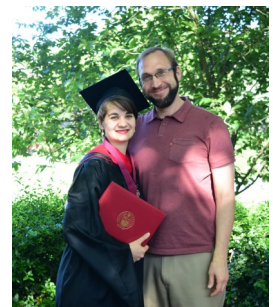


Alumni Graduations

Jeremy B. Utt '03, MAEd '06 completed the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree in Educational Leadership with Licensure at Old Dominion University in May 2018. After 12 years of working as an educator at the middle school level, in the 2018-2019 school year he will be working his first year at the high school level as a math teacher in the Commonwealth Governor's School program at Stafford High School in the Stafford County Public School System.



Tara MillerBerry '12 recently graduated from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry with an MA in Transforming Spirituality. She is now working at the Faith Action Network in Seattle, doing statewide advocacy with interfaith partners.



William and Mary Night at the Nationals Park

Stewart & Laura Robinette 2002 and Brandon Costanzo 2001 sent this photo from the William & Mary Evening at the Washington Nationals' Park. They joined other alumni, faculty, and staff for an evening of special events and activities, guest appearances, and of course, baseball, as Nationals Park got draped in green and gold!

Report from Our Alumni Ambassador: David Hindman

Walking the Camino - Six Ways to Santiago: (The Network of Pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of Saint James). This summer I participated in two Camino walks in Spain with our children. Ben and I walked the English Route of the Camino in June. In August, Grace and I walked the 125 km Portuguese Route.



Interested in a 2020 Camino Experience?

In 2020, I anticipate sponsoring a Camino experience for Wesley Foundation alumni and students, in partnership with Rev. Deborah Lewis, Wesley Foundation Director at UVA. Any alumni interested in learning more about this experience please contact me at dthindman@aol.com.

New Orleans Trip - July 2019

Teri and I will be traveling to New Orleans next July to help celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Matt and Jennifer Johnson '93, and we will use that as an occasion to travel through the southeast to visit alumni along the way. If there are alumni who'd like to be included in our itinerary, they can contact me at dthindman@aol.com so we can consider how to maximize our contacts.

Recent Alumni Connections

As Alumni Ambassador, I have been able to connect with Nancy Resch Fries '93 when I was in the Winchester area, and with Tammy Smith, John and Robin Gsellman, and Amy McCormick Diduch and Kent Diduch when they were in Williamsburg this summer. I am delighted to report that alumni Chris Shaver '95 spent a night at our house last fall after we attended a presentation of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and an interview with John Cleese in Richmond; Teri and I hosted Vicki Bryan Crockett '93 and Mary Reese Snellings '94 and family this Homecoming Weekend. (Our home is always open for Wesley alumni).



Wanted - - Wesley Partners

Please take the challenge and become a Wesley Financial Partner. Our partners sustain the campus ministry through their annual gifts. The Wesley operating budget is dependent on individual donations from alumni and friends. Please help us reach our 2018 Annual Campaign Goal for individual donations of \$18,000. You can provide a tax deductible donation in one of two ways:

On-line by credit card. Go to www.wmwesley.org/donate, or

Mail a check to:

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

The Wesley House is Figuratively and Literally My Home

By Emily Xu



During my freshman year, I was given the amazing news that I had been accepted to live at the Wesley House, and I was ecstatic, to say the least. My housing options on campus were less than ideal, and I had loved my Wesley experience that year. I knew that living at the house would only enhance my college experience – and it absolutely has.

Here at Wesley, we are a community. We celebrate in each other's successes, we support each other through failure, we share in our fears of crossing Jamestown Road during busy hours, and we also share in our frustration for the lack of a crosswalk in front of the house. All of my housemates are amazing people that continually inspire me, and I've had two, truly incredible roommates who are supportive of me and are open minded to my insanely rigid sleeping schedule.

Living at the house, I love that, every day, I can wake up and make my own breakfast in a full-sized kitchen (with brand new floors!!). I love that I can look out my window and see the campus yet feel far enough removed from the chaos that sometimes pervades on-campus life. I love how, on Sunday mornings, I can roll out of bed and right into church next door for the early service. I love that I can learn how to "adult" while knowing there is always someone I can turn to when I need help. Finally, I love that there are always events to attend, people to talk to, and free cookies to eat. The only drawback that comes to mind are the less-than-pleasant creatures that sometimes visit as the season changes, but even this isn't always terrible, because it also gives us residents a chance to see each other at our best (save-the-spider-mode) and at our worst (kill-the-roach-mode).

The Wesley Foundation has been a stable foundation that I can lean on during college. When I was a freshman, Wesley was one of the first communities I joined, and it has remained the strongest community that I identify with as a student at William and Mary. One of my favorite things about living at the house is that it has given me an avenue to become more involved in Wesley and to grow more in my faith. As a resident, I've been able to develop my connection with God and with my Christianity because I now live in an environment where I don't feel ashamed or uncomfortable talking about my faith. I don't have to feel embarrassed about reading the bible in the living room or humming church hymns in the shower. Moreover, my freshman year, I never attended Fellowship Events on Thursday nights, often because I didn't want to trek the (short) distance between my freshman dorm and the house. As a resident, I have no excuse, and I've found myself enjoying the time to relax and have fun with other members of the Wesley Foundation while playing board games, making food, and watching movies.


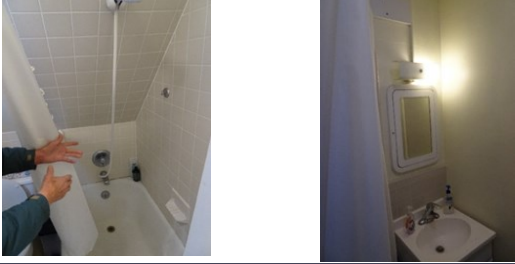
Living at Wesley has provided me with a great community and an affordable housing option, and it has been and will continue to be one of the best parts of my college experience.





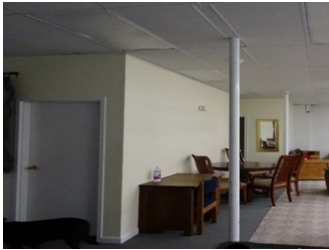

Emily will be studying abroad this spring, but we look forward to welcoming her back next fall. She will be greatly missed. In addition to being active at Wesley, Emily volunteers weekly with Respite Care at Williamsburg UMC, leads Office of Engagement Service trips, and rarely misses Sunday worship at Williamsburg UMC.

The Wesley House and Property 5 Year Upgrade Plan

This plan identifies the major property maintenance and upgrade actions needed to support our ministry and mission and the overall quality and appearance of this property that has been trusted to our care.

Kitchen Floor (Completed - Oct 2018)	Upstairs Bathroom Renovations (Jan 2019)
	
The vinyl floor- The flooring in the kitchen and adjoining halls were replaced! (\$1,800)	Remodel two upstairs residential bathrooms. Both have equipment and plumbing from the '60s (\$13,800)

Fellowship Hall Ceiling & Lighting (Dec 2018)	Basement Ceiling & Lighting (May 2019)
	
Replace lighting and drop ceiling. (\$3,700)	Replace lighting and drop ceiling. (\$3,800)

Convert Basement Single to Double (May 2019)	Upgrade Discipleship Center (May 2019)
	
Expand the room to the posts, provide a private entrance to the bathroom, modify closets. (\$5,000)	Upgrade room for small group meetings, mentoring, study groups, and fellowship events and upgrade bathroom (\$3,800)

The Wesley House and Property 5 Year Upgrade Plan

<p style="text-align: center;">Create a Dining Area for Residents & Small Groups (2019)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parking Lot Asphalt and Curbing Replacement (2020)</p>
	
<p>Present plans are to accomplish this after the ceiling replacement. This will be accomplished through additional equipment and furnishings</p>	<p>Replace timber curbing, strip asphalt to gravel base, and resurface (\$20,000)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship Hall Expansion (May 2022)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship Hall Expansion (May 2022)</p>
	
<p>The plan is to build a storage room for tables, chairs, and sound/presentation equipment to fully accommodate our plan to double large group numbers</p>	<p>The plan is to build the storage room on this side of the house. The initial bids for this expansion were \$32,000 and \$40,000.</p>

**Have You Visited the Wesley Campus Ministry Web Site?
(www.wmwesley.org)**

Go to the Alumni Page

- Download past issues of the Wesley Weavings
- Send us your news, photos

Go to the Wesley Board Page - Learn how you can serve on the board (interested?)

Go to the Explore-Engage-Embody Page - Learn about our Campus Ministry Programs

Where in the WESLEY is this?

(turn to page 5 to find out!!)

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR
YOUR JEWISH NEIGHBOR
YOUR CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR
YOUR ATHEIST NEIGHBOR
YOUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBOR
YOUR LGBTQA NEIGHBOR
YOUR BLACK NEIGHBOR
YOUR WHITE NEIGHBOR
YOUR RACIST NEIGHBOR
YOUR ADDICTED NEIGHBOR
YOUR HOMELESS NEIGHBOR

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

The Wesley Foundation
526 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185