



2019 Wesley Year in Review

Happy New Year! I wanted to make sure that you had a chance to see our latest newsletter in case you had missed it! Thanks so much for your love and support of the students of Wesley! When hate comes to campus, Wesley replaces it with love. ❤️

The photo was taken in front of the sundial between Swem Library and Andrews Hall, after a hateful, judgmental street preacher left. He spent over 3 hours attacking primarily women and LGBTQIA+ students. Wesley showed up in support of the students who had gathered and offered a very different vision of what Christianity calls us to. Max shared with the students that Jesus taught "Love your neighbor as yourself," and "Love your enemies." And that Paul said that the entirety of the law is summed up in one commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Wesley students brought the banner from in front of the Wesley House, and after the preacher left, many of the students wanted to take a photo with the banner in the very spot where the preacher had been standing.

This is what Wesley does on campus. We offer the love of God through Jesus in so many tangible and intangible ways, from partnering with groups and offices across the campus, to offering meals and the Campus Food Pantry to help hungry students (this semester that is over 40 students & over 100 visits to the pantry), to offering community, worship, and safe/brave spaces to discuss our faith. One of the clearest manifestations this year is that the house is almost always full of people coming together to study, eat, share, and grow. Also, our small groups exploded this semester to over 20 students participating, as we discussed Nadia Bolz-Weber's book, *Shameless*. We also provided 61 weeks of housing through the Wesley house and community partners to students who were homeless. Furthermore, students who have left their faith are finding in Wesley a Christian community in which they can engage their faith again. Here are a few examples of what students are saying about Wesley:

- “The people at Wesley welcomed me in an honest and genuine way that I hadn’t felt before, even in other religious settings. I never saw myself joining a religious group on campus, but looking back, I can definitively say that I can’t imagine myself at William and Mary without imagining myself at Wesley too.”
- “Wesley gave me a place to stay when I needed to get out of my home situation, so I am forever thankful for that. I am just happy to be a part of a group that is inclusive, rallying for radical change and love of everyone and anyone, and whose morals and values stand with mine so well. Thank you, Wesley, for making my college experience so much better!!”
- “I was raised Christian, but I’m not a Christian anymore. But I’ve never seen Christians, or a pastor do what y’all did, so I wanted to come see what y’all all are about, and I feel welcomed and loved.” (This is a student now active in Wesley who did so in response to our standing with other students in response to a hate group on campus last semester.)

Thanks so much for all that you do to make Wesley the dynamic community that we are! We cannot do it without your generous support! Thank you for continuing to support us through your prayers, and through showing up in so many ways for Wesley!

If you would like to make a financial contribution, you can donate online here: [Support Wesley!](#)
If you prefer to send a check, simply make it out to “Wesley Foundation” and mail it to

The Wesley Foundation
526 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4044
Do not hesitate to call, text, email, or message me!

Peace,
Max Blalock
William and Mary Wesley Campus Ministry
757-634-7406