

The Wesley Foundation at Memphis

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The Wesley Foundation at Memphis 3625 Midland Avenue Memphis, Tennessee 38111 – 5926 901.458.5808 wesleymemphis@ymail.com www.wesleymemphis.org The Wesley Foundation at Memphis has enjoyed a terrific year in mission and ministry. We started with a massive involvement in the University of Memphis' new student orientation. Representatives of our group introduced itself to new students during Welcome Week, the Registered Student Organizations fair, the Tiger Spirit Fest (sponsored by the Religious Life Organizations of the University of Memphis, of which Wesley is an active member) and our own kickoff event Smooth(ie) Start (a welcome in which we served up free fruit smoothies to those in attendance). We had a great time putting our best foot forward, and we made a lot of new friends in the early days of the academic term.

Worship continues to be at the heart of what we do at Wesley. We have held special worship services in observance of Thanksgiving, a Service of Lessons and Carols marking the beginning of Advent, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. This is in addition to our weekly Worship @ Wesley service that takes place on Tuesday evenings. This worship time, that takes place in our chapel, is an informal time of singing, prayer, scripture reading and sermon. We are indebted to our volunteer musicians – The I Kings 17:13 Band – for their outstanding leadership. Each worship service is followed by a free meal that is provided by volunteer groups from local United Methodist Churches. I want to take this opportunity to thank those kind folks for their faithful support of our work.

The Wesley family gathers for prayer, praise and song The I Kings 17:13 Band provides leadership for our worship. Our Outreach was highlighted by our student participation in The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Students walked in a night-long fund-raiser along with other student organizations. Student booths were also set up for activities or other fund-raising activity. Wesley sold bottled water to thirsty relay participants and was able to make a nice contribution above the funds raised by sponsored walkers.

We have gathered for fellowship in Board Game Night, The Great Wesley Trivia Challenge, Spooky Movies (our Halloween celebration), Trim-the-Tree night (where we decorated our Christmas Tree for the holidays), Family Feud Game Night, 60 Seconds to Lose It competition, Line Dancing and a trip to Patti's 1880's Settlement.

In 2014, The Wesley Foundation at Memphis received a New Program Grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. With this initiative, Wesley began its Square One Bible study. This weekly event begins with a light meal provided by Wesley. Then, we enter into a dialog concerning the basics of faith and spirituality. That emphasis, rather than spending time on the minutia that sometimes accompanies theological discussion, provides this ministry with its name. Square One refers to looking at our beginnings, our bedrock ideas, and then moving on from there. Our Program Grant has enabled us to present this ministry and to begin to establish a small lending library of devotional and spiritual resources.

We continue to emphasize leader development at Wesley. We seek to bring our students along in such a way that when they conclude their university experience they can immediately be contributing, productive members of their local congregations. Student leadership is actively involved in assessing need, designing appropriate opportunities for involvement, directing activities and evaluating program. We believe that when our student leaders go back to their home churches, they can "hit the ground running," and be valuable resources to the local church.

Wesley saw a need to revamp its internet presence this year. So, we contracted with a new provider who redesigned our website and made it a much more productive tool. We invite you to visit us at www.wesleymemphis.com.

Wesley is blessed in that we have a loyal group of supporters that makes regular financial contributions to our work. We are indebted to these individuals, groups and congregations for both their dollar gifts and their prayerful upholding of our ministry. Our work would not be the great thing it is without the loyal support of our Board of Directors. The roster of these people is available elsewhere in the Conference Journal. I would like to thank them individually and collectively for their selfless devotion to Campus Ministry and to The Wesley Foundation at Memphis. And finally, I want to thank our outstanding group of students, whose day-to-day involvement in The Wesley Foundation is a joy. I am deeply heartened by the promise of hope and leadership they provide as the church looks toward the future.

The Peace of the Lord be with you, Rick Pinkston
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