

# The Wesley Yearly



Fall 2023 Wild Wesley Week Kickoff



Smore's at the Sanford Fire Pit



Ax Throwing Night



Worship at Beacon Heights



December 2022 Anderson Christmas Party



Celebrating May 2023 Graduates

## 2023

### The Appalachian Wesley Foundation...

is devoted to meeting the needs of the students of App State's campus. App Wesley is a safe haven for students who want to grow in their faith in God and find a supportive and welcoming community. Over the fall semester of 2023, Wesley offered many opportunities and events for fellowship and ministry. Our dedication to outreach and the connection with students of the App State campus has been a focal part of our ministry. We strive to live out our mission and vision statement every day. We have intently served our App State, Boone, and surrounding communities through various service projects and community service opportunities to help share the love of Christ. We started the semester with a full week filled with many engaging activities for the first week of classes to reach new and old Wesley students on campus. We served lemonade, popsicles, and popcorn, passed out frisbees, cups, and other Wesley merch, enjoyed time by the firepit, traveled to Hickory for a Crawdad's baseball game, and floated down the New River in Todd. We were the hands and feet during the Great Day Of Service adopting a street opportunity, serving meals at Haywood Street Congregation over fall break, engaging in multiple opportunities with local churches' needs, and more.



May 2023 Beach Retreat

We have enjoyed many activities to grow closer and build friendships throughout the semester. Students got into the fall spirit by riding on the Boone Party Bus and going to the pumpkin patch and corn maze. The Wesley Foundation is proud of our school and our college ministry. Our homecoming float placed 2nd in our category and many students helped to decorate and ride on the float to celebrate our school and homecoming week. We also decorated a banner that was displayed in the student union. We have enjoyed many nights of worship outside on our patio under the stars. Take a look inside the newsletter for more details on all the ministry events!

*-Stratton Collins & Aleya Hunnell*

### **Holy Land Pilgrimage 2023, Ethan Smith**

This past January a group of Wesley Students, alumni, and family members had the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land, and visit many historical and cultural sites that were so impactful.

This opportunity was incredibly inspirational to many of us, and helped deepen many aspects of our faith. Being able to be physically present in the waters of the Jordan, on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, and in the churches within the old city of Jerusalem gave us opportunities to reflect on this world that God has blessed us with. This journey was one that for many of us was a dream come true, and getting to see much of the country of Israel and the West Bank gave us the opportunity to engage culturally with the people in the region, as well as our tour guide, a local Israeli man. He was extremely knowledgeable about the history of the area, both modern and ancient. With his wealth of knowledge I believe that it is safe to say that each of us learned more than we ever expected.

One of the most impactful moments for me personally was getting to travel the journey that Jesus would have taken on his last days here on Earth. We began by seeing the Garden of Gethsemane, traveling into the Holy City, and then getting to the place of the crucifixion. Taking this walk allowed us to put into perspective what Jesus would have endured during his last hours here on Earth, and the sacrifices that he made in his life. The journey was a moving one, and had so many moments where we could reflect on all that God has blessed us with, and the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. This trip would not have been possible if it was not for the generosity of many, including the Wesley Foundation as a whole for hosting this trip. Without Rev. Juston Smith, our supporters, and the people who keep this ministry going we would have never had this opportunity. As an alumnus of App Wesley, I am proud to be a part of a community that is fostering opportunities for spiritual growth both in Boone, and worldwide.



Group Picture near Jericho



Spring Break Outside the Capitol Building

### **Spring Break 2023, Zach Green**

I attended the Wesley Spring Break Retreat to Washington, DC in March. This trip was tons of fun and had a great blend of service mission work, learning about and touring the Wesley Theological Seminary (which is where we stayed), and fun activities embracing all the city of DC had to offer. For our service mission work we helped with an organization called Martha's Table. While volunteering here we helped in their food pantry, and also in their clothing store. For the food pantry side of things, we were able to serve the DC community members who are in need of groceries. People would come in and we would fill their grocery bag full of fresh foods along with some canned goods. The "store" allowed folks to pick up fresh foods on a weekly basis. The day we volunteered at the clothing store we were in the back sorting through all of the clothing donations. Some students made sure only good donations would be put out on the racks while other students were out on the floor helping customers find clothing for themselves

and their family. What I found interesting about this organization was that they were willing to help those in need and help people get back on their feet. Martha's Table is structured in a way to not provide "toxic charity," or to enable people; rather, they are structured to empower people.

During our time at the Wesley Theological Seminary we were able to learn more about what seminary was as a whole and what makes the Wesley Theological unique from other seminaries. We were able to participate in a sample class and able to take part in a vibrant worship service one day. We were also able to take a tour of the campus which was nice as it allowed us to see more of the campus than just the living area we were staying in.

When we weren't volunteering with Martha's Table or spending time at the seminary, we were out doing fun things in the city of DC. We saw most of the monuments (Lincoln, Washington, MLK Jr., Vietnam, Korea, FDR, WW2), explored the National Museum of African American History and Culture, visited the White House, toured the Capitol, and saw a Wizards game. We also went and ate at a number of memorable restaurants, but one that will forever stand out in my mind was eating at Pete's Diner. We ate breakfast here one morning before going to the United Methodist building on Capitol Hill. The food was not bad, but they had a cat named Xing Xing who roamed the restaurant and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

All in all, I think I speak for all of us that went on the trip saying that everyone had a good time. We were able to be a loving example of the hands of feet of Jesus serving the DC community along with others that we interacted with on the trip.



Sunrise at Trinity Center

### Waves of Faith, Lily Sanders & Jayne Hoyt

The beach retreat was a great way to get to know other members of App Wesley better. One of the ways I see God's presence in my life is in connecting with other people. It was a really cool experience and a good way to wrap up the school year. The sunrise communion was also another beautiful God moment; it's a reminder that every day is a new beginning and that even when we don't know what God has in store for us, He has a plan.

One thing we do at Beach Retreat is called "Beach Buddies," which is essentially a small Secret Santa for the weekend. It's so fun because you never

know who you're going to get, and you most likely won't get your best friend. It's a way for everyone to learn more about others in the group and show them small acts of kindness, even if it is just picking out pretty shells at the beach! Beach Retreat is one of my favorite things Wesley does because it is a great way to wrap up the school year and say goodbye to all your friends. Not only is it a fun weekend at the beach, but a great weekend of worshipping with your friends next to God's creation.



Mini Golf Frustrations

### Fall Retreat Pilgrimage & Missions October 13-16, 2023, Ben Baker

We had the opportunity to participate in two amazing activities while we were in Asheville, Montreat and Black Mountain. On Saturday, we got up early and met with a group called Way in the Wilderness, and went on an 11 mile pilgrimage hike that took about half the day, walking through Black Mountain and ending in Montreat. It was interesting to experience the town by walking through it and it allowed us to be closer to God's creation and with each other as we went. About halfway through the long hike, we took about 20 minutes to stop talking and fully take in the creation around us, and took time to reflect on different things we heard. As the walk started to come to a close, we stopped along the river we were hiking along and washed each other's feet in the water. This was one of our favorite parts of the hike, and it was amazing to do a small act for each other like Jesus does for us every day, even if the water was extremely chilly!



Foot Washing during Pilgrimage

Sunday, we volunteered at the Haywood Street Congregation in Asheville, and served free breakfast to anyone in the community that needed a good quality meal. Some of us made plates and helped in the kitchen, while others helped take orders and bring plates to the different tables. It definitely got busy once we got started, but looking back on it now, it was really exciting to have the chance to interact with such a diverse group of people during the breakfast, both inside and outside the kitchen. Afterwards, we attended their Sunday morning service, which was very different from any service we had ever been a part of. It was a very informal service, with the pastor allowing anyone from the congregation to add to what she was saying in her sermon. We heard from a lot of people who trusted God through hardships they were going through or had experienced in the past, and shook a bottle of rocks every time we wanted

to celebrate something that was said (we were a little confused the first time this happened). Haywood Street personally asked if we could be part of their service, so two talented guys from our App Wesley worship band, Parker Rosenblatt and Stratton Collins, led the singing of "Waymaker" during the time of worship. This was a church service that will stay with each of us for a long time, and we all felt honored to be part of what Haywood Street was doing to show people in Asheville the power of God in action. This trip impacted all of us by allowing us to experience God through the simple acts of walking, listening to people, and serving breakfast, and it was the highlight of the semester for sure!



Haywood Street Congregation



Scan the QR Code to See The Entire Fall Retreat & Mission Trip Photo Album!

### **Women's Small Group, Hallie Harrington**

"I really look forward to women's small group each week because it is time I can take a break from whatever I have going on in the week. I also really enjoy diving deeper into the Bible and learning how I can better myself as a Christian woman along with a bunch of sweet and encouraging girls." (Hannah Hinshaw, Small Group Member) Every Monday, the women meet after the Monday night meals. Each semester we have two different Bible studies that are about six weeks long each. We try to find a topic that we all can relate to and are struggling with at the time. In the past, we have done a study about Surrendering to God, as well as most recently, diving deep into different bible stories to learn more about God's character. Women's Small Groups is a place where we can ask questions about who God is, meet other Christian women who are also at App State, and leave all our worries at the door and pursue Jesus. In addition to our weekly small group events, we also have fun girls' night events throughout the semester. Taking the time to have fun events and spend time with like-minded Christian women is very rewarding both emotionally and spiritually. We can all agree that we are living in an answered prayer when having our small group and other fun events throughout the semester.



### **Men's Small Group, Jackson Hager**

The men's bible study group at the Appalachian Wesley Foundation has always been a special place to me. It is a time where we can relax and just be together with each other and in God's grace. Doing studies on Christian apologetics in the Spring semester, and studying how Jesus fulfills the scriptures of the Old Testament this Fall semester helps us to gain a deeper connection in our faith and have a better understanding of the beliefs we share as Christians. Another thing that we like to do in our Bible study is our accountability groups. These groups are where we can voice anything that we might be going through in our lives with our friends. And should we be going through anything that we may have trouble battling we make sure to hold each other accountable of those goals and help each other through anything we might be going through. The men's Bible study group is a very comforting and fun place to be and it truly feels like a little family!

### **Worship, Parker Rosenblatt**

This fall in worship we have welcomed new members to our praise team, including many freshmen. We have enjoyed the nice weather and taken our Wednesday Night Worship service outdoors onto our patio on many occasions. Through music, we praised God with upbeat anthems, reflective ballads, and everything in between. We concluded our "early Advent" season (allowing us to go through all the weeks of advent before departing for winter break) by singing some favorite Advent & Christmas hymns and carols.

After worship, we engage in fellowship, often with tasty treats such as smores on the campfire or giant donuts from Hole Lotta Donuts.

On occasion, we broke from the norm and engaged in meaningful community-building activities, such as making prayer beads or baking cookies and writing letters for members of our community.

We look forward to the many worship opportunities that will arise this upcoming spring semester.



Scan the QR Code to Watch the Live Worship Replay Playlist!

# APP WESLEY HOMECOMING



## SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH



Homecoming Banner  
"Nightmare Before Appmas"



Homecoming Float Placed 2nd!  
(we won \$200!)



Thank You to everyone that donated via our Amazon Wish List and In Person to the App Wesley vs. Southern Miss Wesley to Defeat



Football Tailgate



App State Football



### Sunbelt Wesley, *Juston Smith*

While attending the United Methodist Campus Ministry Association conference this summer at Duke Divinity School, I met several campus pastors and directors of the Wesley Foundations across the Sun Belt Athletic Conference, the primary conference for our varsity sports at App State. I thought how cool it would be for us to work together in ministry across the conference, which stretches across the southeast. So, we have! We have created the Sunbelt Wesley ... a ministry comprising of the 13 Wesley Foundations that are presently active at the respective Sun Belt Conference schools: App State, Arkansas State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia Southern, James Madison, Louisiana, Marshall, Old Dominion, South Alabama, Southern Miss, Texas State, Troy, University of Louisiana—Monroe. During App State's Homecoming, App Wesley competed against Southern Miss Wesley to collect items for our respective food pantries. App Wesley won (of course), and all items have been donated to the App State Campus Food Pantry. In January, App Wesley, Southern Miss Wesley, Troy Wesley, Georgia Southern Wesley, and South Alabama Wesley will be participating in a Sun Belt Wesley Winter Retreat outside of Chattanooga, TN!

# Celebrating 60 Years

Student Center Anniversary

December 1, 1963

App Wesley 60 Year Brick Campaign

“Marking The Past To Pave Way For The Future”

“ When I arrived at Boone on August 1, 1963, the ministry was lodged in the basement of the Boone (not yet United) Methodist Church. On the first Sunday of Advent (December 1), 1963, we moved into the Wesley building.

-Rev. Maurice Ritchie, campus minister, 1963-1967



New Shingles, September 2023



We are inviting you to donate a brick that will forever be a part of the foundation of the App Wesley Student Center. The funds raised through this initiative will directly support the Firm Foundation Renovation Loan from 2020-2021. Your contribution will enable us to continue offering a wide range of programs, events, and ministry resources that empower young minds and foster a sense of community.



Current Patio Space



Renovated Patio Space Rendering

In honor of this momentous occasion, we are embarking on a special project that we believe captures the essence of our shared journey: the renovation of the patio with a commemorative brick patio that will serve as a tangible testament to the legacy of the App Wesley Student Center.

# GOAL!

**450 Bricks  
by February 29th!**



**BRICKS R US**  
ENGRAVED BRICKS & TILES



Learn More at [www.appwesley.org/brick](http://www.appwesley.org/brick)



Your support is invaluable to us, and we are immensely grateful for your continued partnership in this meaningful endeavor. Together, we can leave a permanent mark on the App Wesley Student Center and pave the way for generations of students to come.

“The bricks for the patio can create a way to help as a fundraiser in addition to honoring somebody in a special, and permanent way.”  
-Dodie Glowa, Board of Directors



Renovated Patio Space Rendering



“The patio project is a great way of enhancing the physical location of App Wesley, and expands the former alumni community interaction through a project that allows for placing a special memory for years to come.”  
-Fred Fonville, Board of Directors

“Marking the past to pave way for the future” is a celebration of our rich history and a declaration of our unwavering commitment to shaping the future of our students and community.



Current Patio Space



Renovated Patio Space Rendering

# DONATE NOW

**Donate Your Brick Today!**  
We Need 450 Donors To Pay Down  
One Year of The Renovation Loan!

For **\$100**, you can submit your personalized message that will be a foundation on the patio for years to come. Bricks are 4x8, 3 lines of text, 18 characters per line.

Donate Your Brick For The First Order  
by **February 29, 2024!**  
Bricks Will Be Available To Donate Until All 1700  
Have Been Claimed.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Juston Smith at 828-264-9606 or [juston@appwesley.org](mailto:juston@appwesley.org)

A special dedication ceremony where we will unveil the completed patio will be announced in 2024!

Learn More at [www.appwesley.org/brick](http://www.appwesley.org/brick)



# Coming in 2024



**WINTER RETREAT**  
TENNESSEE  
TELICO PLAINS, TN  
JANUARY 19-21, 2024  
\$50  
SBW SUNBELT WESLEY  
SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CAMP

**ASP** Appalachia  
SERVICE PROJECT  
Spring Break Mission  
March 10-16, 2024  
www.appwesley.org/spring



**BEACH RETREAT**  
May 12-15, 2024  
Information Coming Soon!



www.appwesley.org | /appwesley | @appwesley | /@appwesleytv

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