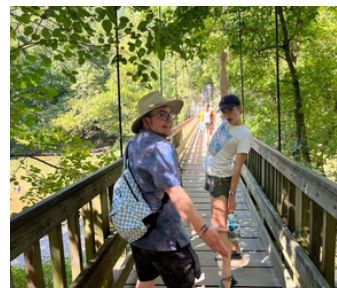


2024 FALL NEWSLETTER

THE CORNERSTONE

Wesley Foundation at Purdue



WESLEY THRIVING IN OUR TEMPORARY 'FOUND' LOCATION

A letter from Pastor Glen

Dear Alumni and Supporters,

It was bittersweet to see the old building at 435 W. State St. come down in late October. The actual demolition took just a few days, but salvaging useful and meaningful items was a process that spanned many months. Many thanks to alum Matthew Oates, who led a team of volunteers and staff over the summer to sort through thousands of items accumulated over 84 years of ministry. While some items were discarded, we were very successful in reusing and recycling. Some items were moved to our temporary building, others were stored for our future building, and some were given a new home. We also salvaged much of the actual building itself. A significant amount of wood and stonework was carefully removed and stored. All of the air conditioning units, two relatively new boilers, many lights, all security cameras, most windows, most doors, and virtually everything in the kitchen will be reused.



As we await our new ministry center, which will be ready by the summer of 2026, Wesley's ministry continues to thrive in our temporary location. Many thanks to the Baptist Student Foundation (aka "The Found"), who have graciously rented us rooms and shared common spaces in their ministry center for this school year and the next. Together, Wesley and The Found have made improvements to our temporary building, often called "The Wesley Found."

We installed some of the air-conditioning units from the old Wesley, so now all shared spaces are air-conditioned. We renovated the kitchen at The Found to include stainless steel tables, a dishwasher, a convection oven, a refrigerator, and a freezer. We also transformed the lower level into an inviting and homey space where we gather and share meals. Throughout the building, our amazing volunteer, David Caddy, has been installing new lights and working on security cameras (most from our old building). In both the lower level and the worship space, David has installed new and repurposed audio and visual equipment.



While smaller in size than both our old and future buildings, the Baptist Found has a similar campus ministry feel that our students have embraced. I am pleased to report that nearly all of the students who were active at Wesley last year and are still in town have remained active. In fact, our Sunday worship numbers are nearly identical to last year, thanks to a good number of new students across all class levels (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students).

Our Wesley Recreation numbers are as strong as ever, with a record number of freshmen participating. We've also had huge turnouts for our Winterization Service Project and the three Midnight Pancakes events we've hosted so far at the Wesley Found. Our Labor Day canoe trip was excellent, with over 40 college students and about 20 youth and counselors from three local churches, creating a flotilla of fun with more than 30 canoes. Additionally, we added a day trip to Warren Dunes State Park in Michigan, attended by over 30 students, and a Fall Break two-night camping trip to the same location, which included 12 students. We've also seen a large number of international students participating in the ministry, including two who joined the Fall Break trip.

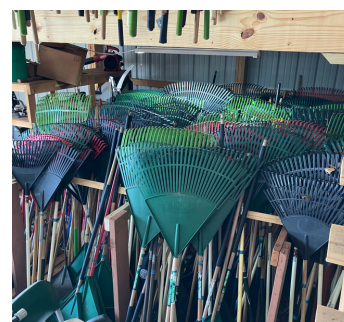
As with every semester, some ministries have experienced a dip in participation. This semester, our Tuesday evening numbers dipped, especially mid-semester as Winterization approached. It might be related to so many Wesley folks being involved in the Winterization planning CREW, which met earlier on Tuesday evenings. Additionally, while our Freshmen Small Group Bible Study has been of excellent quality with two great sophomore leaders, the number of freshmen participants has been lower than usual. The Bible study has averaged just under five students throughout the semester. The good news is that our newly elected COM student leaders for next semester (including one freshman) are already brainstorming why this might be the case and what we can do to attract more freshmen next semester.

Overall, it has been an amazing semester of ministry, despite the challenges of adapting to a new, temporary, shared location. Students' lives are being touched, and the spirit of the Wesley Foundation at Purdue is alive and well. Thank you to all our supporters who make this dynamic ministry possible.

**Grace and Peace,
Glen (aka Rev. Dr. Glen Robyne)**

WINTERIZATION

We had a beautiful day for our 23rd annual Winterization on Saturday, November 9, 2024! With the combined efforts of the 1,500 Purdue students who pre-registered this year's Winterization was a powerful day of service. Together, we served older residents at 311 individual homes in the Lafayette area, preparing their homes for winter and sharing warmth through simple acts of kindness.



This year, Wesley Foundation was fortunate to have Adrian Walker and Megan Stohr, Purdue students and Winterization coordinators, at the helm. For Adrian, Winterization is about more than just raking leaves; it's about connecting with neighbors who rely on our help. "To [the student volunteers], it's a couple of hours of raking, and for the residents we serve, it means so much more," Adrian shared.



In the days leading up to Winterization, our team and volunteers worked hard to organize our 1,200 rakes and 5,000 leaf bags. With this preparation, volunteers could focus on building meaningful connections with the residents they served. As Pastor Glen Robyne noted, the heart of this event is the "interaction between college students and the wider community, especially some of the older people who need extra help."

MEET JANÉE LAFUZE

Hi, I am so glad to have joined the program staff here at Wesley Foundation. I was a former student at Wesley from 2014–2017, when I was heavily involved in both leadership at Wesley and as a resident of Aldersgate (our community living space for a dozen students) for a few semesters. It is through Wesley that I entered into vocational ministry, and through a partnership with St. Andrew UMC and Wesley, I am able to come back to such a familiar place. Since starting my time at Wesley this fall, I have had the pleasure of helping with a variety of worship activities, namely Sunday service and Tuesday night Bible studies. I have loved my time leading the senior group on Tuesdays as we have discussed faith, life, and transitions as they prepare for the next step of their lives.



In addition, I was privileged to lead our Homecoming Cookout on the new lot this year. Old and new friends joined together for some classic tailgate fare! We had about 20 folks who stopped in. The weather held out, and our time together was filled with laughter. I also engaged with those who joined our Alumni Zoom in October and helped plan our time together. I look forward to our next virtual gathering on December 15 and connecting once again with old friends. Being able to come back to a place that shaped me into who I am is a great joy in my life. God has blessed me with such an opportunity to come back to my favorite "home away from home." I hope to continue my time here with Wesley and the other staff and continue to strengthen and support this best ministry here on Purdue's campus!

HOMECOMING MIDNIGHT PANCAKES

Elise C. - Sophomore in Finance and Accounting, from Indianapolis Area, Wesley Foundation Student Hospitality Chair

Hello! As hospitality chair at Wesley Foundation, I organize the food for our weekly Sunday dinners and other big events, as well as make sure the kitchen is clean and organized. One of our big events is Midnight Pancakes, where we serve different kinds of pancakes to students on a couple of weekend nights throughout the year. It's always a super fun time, both spending time with Wesley volunteers and getting to feed Purdue students!



This year was a little crazy—due to rain and strong winds, we had to cook and serve entirely inside, which created a bit of a challenge. However, we ended up figuring everything out, and lots of students (nearly double what we had expected, over 300) came and loved all of the pancakes! My favorite part of the experience was getting to cook very chaotically with my friends from Wesley—and possibly sneaking some of the pancakes while doing it!

FALL TRIPS AND EVENTS

Labor Day Canoe/Hike Trip

By Hannah R. - Senior in Agricultural Education, from Indianapolis

I have been able to go on the Labor Day canoe trip with Wesley Foundation for two years in a row now, and it has been such a fun and memorable experience both times! Being in nature truly makes me feel more spiritually connected, so canoeing and hiking in the beautiful state parks nearby fills my spiritual cup. A highlight of this trip for me is always interacting with members of the international community that participate in Wesley events. It is such a joy to experience something that is often new and different to them alongside people who give me a wider world perspective.



This year, I got to invite some close friends of mine who are not active Wesley students and share this beautiful experience with them, which is such a treasured memory. Additionally, this year on the canoe trip, I got to fill my role as a youth counselor at Grace UMC in Lafayette as I took some of the youth along for the trip. It was so special to watch over 60 people from a variety of age groups and backgrounds connect with nature and with one another.

I am graduating this year, so this was unfortunately my last Wesley canoe trip, but I encourage everyone to go on future Labor Day trips with Wesley—you won't regret it!



Warren Dunes Trip

By Gabriela E. - Senior studying abroad at Purdue, from Colombia

Being far from home sometimes can be overwhelming. But even in a totally different culture, you still find what's rooted in humanity: community, love, and joy. I arrived at Wesley Foundation because some friends invited me to a trip. I ended up in a van hitting the dunes of Lake Michigan and singing along all the way.



Since then, I have found great support at Wesley. Hiking and reflection are activities I seek, and having the opportunity to share that passion with such interesting and loving people is beautiful. Pastor Glen once said, "This is about sharing inspiration and seeking wisdom from Jesus' words," and I totally agree.

I am thankful for this meaningful connection I have found during my exchange, and it is beautiful. Wesley is open to anyone who wants to participate.



Fall Retreat

By Kathryn A. - Senior in Chemical Engineering, from Michigan, Wesley Foundation Student President



A large part of each semester is the weekend retreat, and this semester we had the opportunity to visit North UMC Indy. Indianapolis is a very fun city to visit, and we had the opportunity to visit the Indy Zoo to start our retreat. Next, we continued the party with pizza and games at the beautiful church. My favorite memory from this retreat was playing sardines and Christina hiding for over 30 minutes without being found despite numerous clues.

Additionally, we were able to engage with the community of North Indy both during Sunday morning worship and while helping to organize their community outreach supply room. As a college student, making those community connections is very important, and I know that our work there will help a lot of people.

Overall, the retreat was a great way to escape campus and midterms to build community both with my friends from Wesley and with the greater Indianapolis community.



Exploration Acres

This was such a fun event! After a cookout, the group of thirty students split up into smaller groups to explore and get lost in the corn mazes. Afterwards we ate s'mores and dough boys cooked at our fire pit. It was such a great time spent with friends.



Mini Golf!

Every Friday we do a fellowship event, and we always like to kick off the new school year with a trip to Hole in One Family Fun. Mini golf is a great way to get out, enjoy the nice weather, and play some fun games with friends!



Halloween Dinner Party hosted by the Upperclass students

Everyone dressed up and showed out for Halloween this year! Everybody's outfits were absolutely amazing and we had so much fun.



Turkey Run State Park, Sunset Point, along Sugar Creek.

We took several adventures this semester to various places, but this photo showcases a day we spent exploring Turkey Run with 60 students. Pictured is Pastor Glen with some of our international students from India. Throughout the semester folks were able to enjoy beaches, dunes, and forests!



Thanksgiving Dinner Party hosted by Underclassmen

This Thanksgiving's theme was a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving! Before the meal was served we enjoyed the typical Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Food consisting of pretzels, popcorn, jellybeans, and toast. Then we enjoyed an amazing meal prepared by Underclassmen!



World Communion Sunday

Every third Sunday of the month, we celebrate Communion at Sunday Worship. During this time we remember how much Jesus sacrificed for us and receive his strength. This was a special Communion where we remember that truly everyone is invited to the table.



Trampoline Park!

Another extra special Friday Fellowship event where we went off campus to show off our jumping skills at Get Air Trampoline Park.



Sunday Worship

Everyone has a place here at Wesley. Sunday Worship brings us all together in one space, and allows us to truly soak in what God has blessed us with.



Shades State Park

This day trip was great! We were able to hike and enjoy the nature of the state park. We even saw a few creatures along the way (including salamanders, deer, and frogs!).

LIFE AT WESLEY

Meet Mina W. - Sophomore in Psychological Sciences, Secretary-Elect of Wesley's COM

The first time I came to Wesley was before I was even a student at Purdue. I was in my senior year of high school and attended worship to help my friend promote counseling at Pine Creek UMC Summer Camp, where I have been on staff. It was a little intimidating at first because there were a bunch of college students, but they were all very friendly during dinner afterward. When I started at Purdue, I wasn't an active member at Wesley. I had a good friend who was active, though, so occasionally I'd pop in to hang out with them. It wasn't until the end of my first semester that I really started to spend time at Wesley regularly. I'd come in between classes to relax and socialize. What was funny was that I ended up knowing a lot more people here than I thought I did. I knew a handful of active members through activities like Scouts and Pine Creek. The people I didn't know but met along the way were very welcoming and friendly, so much so that Wesley has become my community and my home away from home.



Meet Jeffrey H. - Grad Student in Athletic Engineering

My first Wesley Foundation event was a recreation activity where we played Ultimate Frisbee on the intramural fields. I was introduced to Wesley by my brother, who was an active member during his undergraduate years. Wesley Rec was the first of many Wesley events that I attended throughout my first semester here at Purdue.



Wesley has made a positive impact on my time at Purdue by providing a group of friends that I can rely on for support, comfort, or a good laugh. The various support groups that Wesley offers, like one specifically for graduate students, have helped me stay focused on my goals while celebrating accomplishments of any size.



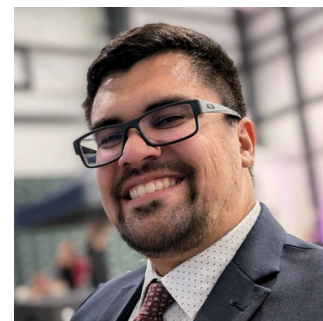
To anyone at Purdue who is curious about Wesley but hasn't been, this is what I'd say: Initially, I was nervous to join a group like Wesley. I didn't have any prior friends in the group, my faith wasn't very strong, and I didn't know if I would fit in. However, I'm so glad that I took my brother's advice. Wesley has made a tremendous impact on my Purdue experience, and it can do the same for you. I encourage you to take the advice my brother gave me: "Just give it a try. You don't know how much fun it will be until you go."



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear extended Wesley Family,

Our Wesley Board of Directors wishes to extend warm greetings and appreciation to our alumni and supporters! This semester, we have been blessed by your support and encouragement as we transitioned from 435 W. State St. to our temporary home at the Baptist Student Foundation. I wanted to take an opportunity to update you on the hard work that the Board of Directors has been carrying out this Fall.



On the new building front, we have been working for a year now with KJG, a local architectural firm. We're happy to share that our preliminary design has been approved by the APC and the City of West Lafayette! We have since hired an owners' representative (Cube & Co.) and a general contracting firm (Meyer Najem), and are working with them on value engineering our design. We have also carried out a full site evaluation, and are looking forward to breaking ground this upcoming Spring! Stay tuned for updates on the groundbreaking celebration date.

The ongoing value engineering work is time consuming, but it's a critical task as we seek to be good stewards of the proceeds from the sale of 435 W State St. and the funding we are seeking to raise through our upcoming Capital Campaign! We are also putting the money we have received to work. With help from local banking staff, we've locked in \$280K in earned interest.

Speaking of the upcoming Capital Campaign: our Board hired Evergreen Strategic Communications as marketing consultants. In addition to helping with our regular communications, Evergreen and their associated capital campaign consultant will be working to help us raise the necessary funds to successfully complete our new building, remain debt-free, and invest in our existing Aldersgate house.

This semester has been full of hard work, and I'm grateful to all current and former Board members who helped us get here. Whether it be working on designing our new building, shifting us to QuickBooks Online, seeking to implement a new donor database, or helping update our personnel policies; our Board members have worked so hard to make sure Wesley is ready to meet the challenges of the next 50 years! I also want to express my deep appreciation for our fantastic staff members who work tirelessly to make sure our ministry continues to make a difference in Purdue students' lives.

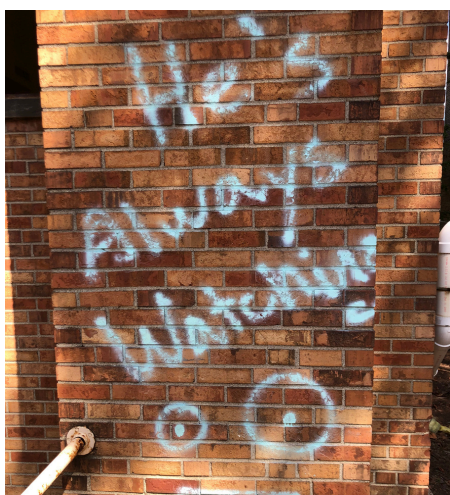
Finally, thank you to our financial supporters. Your contributions make it possible for us to continue carrying out Wesley's mission, and they enable us to continue working to build Wesley's next chapter!

**Best regards,
Angel Valentín**

STAY CONNECTED WITH WESLEY FOUNDATION

Wesley Foundation has been a spiritual home for Purdue students for over 100 years, embodying “Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.” Through worship services, leadership mentoring, mission trips, and social justice initiatives, Wesley continues to impact students’ lives deeply.

As we embark on an exciting new chapter with our relocation, we’re eager to create even closer bonds with God and friends. This move presents incredible opportunities, but also presents significant challenges that require your continued support. Please help us by staying connected! Subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media for updates about our progress, events, and ways to get involved.



SUPPORT WESLEY STUDENTS

Since 2011, we’ve relied solely on rental income and generous supporters like you to sustain our ministries. Your gifts allow us to counsel students in crisis, lead service projects like Winterization, and maintain our historic building.

Support us today by giving online through our secure portal, Vanco, or via PayPal. Whether it’s a one-time gift or recurring donation, your support is vital to Wesley’s mission of transforming lives and nurturing faith.

Together, we can continue making Wesley a spiritual home for future generations.

Scan the QR code to get involved!



**WESLEY FOUNDATION AT PURDUE
P.O. BOX 2396
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47996**



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