

THE CORNERSTONE

2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

WESLEY AT PURDUE



A LETTER FROM PASTOR GLEN

Dear Friends of Wesley,

On April 28, we celebrated the last Sunday worship service in our current Wesley building. Pastor Mack and I co-preached on *Wandering in the Wilderness* in a moving service that included communion. A reporter from a local television station, who had covered Winterization last fall, was present for worship. The next day she interviewed me and while I was talking about Wesley, I noticed a tear in her eye. I asked her about it after the interview. She shared with more tears welling up in her eyes that she had been touched by Wesley this year and was sad that she did not discover Wesley when she was a student at Purdue. She felt that she had wandered in the wilderness in terms of faith and religion and Wesley would have been a perfect place for her to figure out her belief in God. Many of us have had a tear in our eyes as we have said goodbye to our historic location at 435 W. State St. – our home for 107 years. We are deeply attached to the location and the building that has served us faithfully since 1940. On June 1, we will celebrate the Final Farewell to our current building.

Soon after will begin a two month project of moving items to our temporary location and putting other items in storage until our new building is completed in 2026. It will also involve letting go of things that are no longer helpful to our ministry going forward. We know that God will continue to be with us as we spend two years sharing The Found (Baptist Student Foundation) and finish planning and constructing a new fully-accessible Wesley building.

Despite the tears, our overwhelming feeling is joy as we position Wesley for an even more powerful ministry in the future. I want to invite you to join us as we move forward and wander in the wilderness with God. Come journey with us as we develop an even better ministry building at a new vital location. Together our future is bright as we continue to develop a community that more embodies the inclusive message of God's love that we believe. Please pray with us that we can together live into a more faithful and life-giving ministry.

Grace and Peace,
Glen

April 28: Last Worship Service at Wesley



March 31: Easter Service



April 13: Farewell 435 State Street Event



SEMESTER RECAP

April 8: Solar Eclipse at Hickory Hills



April 13: Students & Alums at our Farewell to 435 State Street Event



April 20: Cave Exploration at Daniel Boone Springs Cave



Hello!

I'm excited to share a recap of the spring semester with you all! The year 2024 has been nothing short of eventful, with preparations for our big move and the usual Wesley shenanigans. You'll read more about our Spring Retreat and Spring Break Trip on the next couple of pages, so here are some other highlights!

Starting off with Sundays, we had quite a few guest preachers, like alum Kory Pritchett and now-graduated Dylan Richards (both of whom have begun the process to become bi-vocational pastors). Dylan also regularly participated in our praise band, which was very spirited this semester led again by Christina Sowinski. The praise team looked different each week and was often quite large as it drew from a group of over a dozen students. Students really had the chance to showcase their talents. We even had two different trombone-players! To top it off, the night of Grand Prix Midnight Pancakes, the band played some live music from the roof! This semester was also full of extra activities outside of our usual schedule. This year for Holy Week we had an activity every single day of the week, and Monday's was a truly new experience for everyone.

Following the example of Jesus in temple, we flipped tables! All jokes aside, it was a powerful experience and one we will certainly do again! On Holy Saturday, after a morning hike, several of us went to support incoming VP Evan C. by watching the play he directed! The exciting trips kept coming in April, with two different groups traveling south to see the total solar eclipse. Special thanks to alums Gabrielle and Andrew who hosted a group at the Retreat at Hickory Hills near Spencer IN (they also hosted us again for our COM planning retreat after finals). To round off the semester, President Alex T. led two more caving trips for adventurous students. We hope to see this new side of our recreation ministry continue in the coming years.

There are so many great memories that it's impossible to include them all. And that's a wonderful problem to have! We are incredibly grateful that we can provide all these experiences for our students. As we say farewell to 435 and step into the first stage of our wilderness journey, let's keep this momentum going and continue to make Wesley a spiritual home away from home.

-Jasmin Mendoza (Staff)

SPRING RETREAT

FEBRUARY 23-24

LOCATION: WESLEY & NICHES

The Wesley Spring Retreat was a great time to bond and relax with our friends both new and old. One Friday night in February we went to Wesley as usual for dinner and fellowship, but this time we stayed all night for extra fun. We played typical lock-in games such as sardines and ships and sailors, but there was also a powerful devotion that helped us begin to say goodbye to our beloved building. We also painted ceiling tiles, which was a way we could all add a personal touch to the building for these last few months. The next morning, we hosted a lunch for alumni. It was very special welcoming our alums back to catch up and start saying goodbye to the building. We had an activity where everyone could paint their hand and place it on the wall, once again adding a personal touch to the building. Overall, it was a very chill atmosphere and I think everyone had a great time!

Megan S.
Student



Current Students & Alums Celebrate Wesley



Students having fun in the Great Hall



Students & Alums meet and greet



New Building Updates!



Group Photo at Cumberland Falls

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 9-14

LOCATION: TENNESSEE



Camping in the Smokey Mountains



Students enjoying the view

My spring break experience with the Wesley Foundation at Purdue was truly life-changing for me, not only mentally, but spiritually as well. Each time I get on top of a mountain, I feel completely changed. All of life's perspectives come into clarity and truly allow me to focus on what's important. The trip gave me new breath into my dreams, visions, and goals, and allowed me to see how meaningful being with a like-minded group of people can be and how fun of a trip it can create. Will I go next year? Absolutely. The mountains, the falls, the downtown nightlife of Nashville will always be memorable for me. Life's too short not to be thankful for what you have and to not go to Tennessee! Thank God for this trip and allowing me to go on it.

**David C
Student**



Group Selfie

PHOTO WALL & FUTHERMORE



Jan 9: Tuesday Night



Feb 4: Sunday Worship



**Mar 25: Holy Week
(flipping tables)**



Apr 8: Trip to Union City to see the Solar Eclipse



Apr 20: Wesley Caving Trip

Apr 13: Farewell to 435 State Street Event



Apr 19: Wesley Band plays on the roof for Midnight Pancakes



Mar 11: Spring Break Trip



Jan 26: Fellowship Friday Ice Skating Night



Scan the QR code to check out this amazing article by Emily Slater from Star City TV News

BUILDING UPDATE

It is an exciting time to be on the Wesley Foundation Board of Directors! Glynn is currently working on her PhD in Mechanical Engineering, but has been a Wesley student since she was a freshman at Purdue in 2016. Becca is the current board Vice President; she became a part of Wesley as a student in 2013 and now works as a research associate with United Animal Health. We are both a part of the design team working diligently to design the best possible space for our next 100 years of ministry!

Our new property at 122 Waldron Street is in a great location, with easy access to academic and residential campus. One thing we learned early on in the design process, is that despite being 80 years old, there is a lot we like in our current space that has stood the test of time. However, as we envision our new building space there is much to be excited about!

The outside of our building shows what our new home will look like at the corner of 2nd and Waldron St. A few of our favorite aspects: three crosses on the building (can you find them all?), stained glass in our new sanctuary, and outdoor study space in the sunken patio and 2nd floor patio. Inside, the building is fully accessible to people of all walks of life.



Many of the spaces from the current building are replicated in our future home. We look forward to the students who will gain leadership skills in the new conference room while they work on the council on ministries. We look forward to the spiritual growth of students in the worship lounge and adjoining prayer chapel. We look forward to the friendships that will blossom in the TV lounge. And of course, we look forward to the ever flowing cereal at our new 30 foot long cereal, snack, and drink bar!

In addition to our new ministry space, we are excited to add two floors of residential space to our new building. We plan for this space to be a home away from home for 30-34 students during the school year. A part of this space will be a 8-10 person community living area where students share a kitchen and living area, like they do now at Aldersgate. We will also have several traditional apartments. As we look forward to expanding our housing ministry, we are also envisioning space for a ministry intern to live within the community and support the growth of a healthy community there.

As we continue to realize what this building will look like, we are excited to share with you more visions of our new home on social media and through the newsletter.

**The latest 3D rendition of what our new building will possibly look like*

MEET ADAM HEMMELGARN

Greetings!

My name is Adam Hemmelgarn. I recently joined the Wesley board of directors and am leading the capital campaign committee. I attended Wesley Foundation at Purdue from 2016-2020. I graduated with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and currently work for Case IH. At Wesley, I was involved in Winterization for 4 years, on COM for 3, and helped lead the development of the Wesley Welcoming statement.

I got involved in leading the capital campaign when Glen and Angel approached me earlier this year about assisting Wesley during this new build. I had been praying for an opportunity to give back to Wesley with my times and talents post-graduation, and was overjoyed with the offer. I believe a capital campaign is essential to build the building God wants us to so we can be most effective in ministry outreach to future students.

I'm very excited about the team we have working on the Capital Campaign. We have five hardworking board members with diverse backgrounds both in the ministry and secular space who have been meeting weekly for the past few months to set a strong base for the campaign. Besides myself, Mike Butler is co-capital campaign leader. Mike is a retired UM pastor of the Indiana Conference and was part of Purdue Wesley Foundation in the 1970's.

He now lives in Florida and is also involved with a capital campaign for the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, providing safe, affordable housing for low income workers of southwest Florida. Susie Loughner has been involved with Wesley since 2018 as a parent of Wesley students, community member, and has made countless meals for hungry students. She loves to attend and help with Midnight Pancakes events and currently works remotely for Purdue. Rebecca Pritchett became involved in Wesley as a freshman in 2013. After graduation, she remained involved with Wesley and joined the board in 2023. She is married to Wesley alum and former intern, Kory Pritchett. Glen Robyne, is of course our current executive director and one of our campus pastors. He has been with Wesley since 2002.

We are still in the early stages of the campaign, as the team feels it is important to build a strong foundation before such a big undertaking. We are extremely excited as a team to start reaching out and reconnecting with past alums and friends of Wesley in the coming months. I'm especially excited to hear about the old traditions and happenings at Wesley that were before my time there. I am sure there is much to be shared, great conversations to be had, and memories to be remembered! I'm super excited to be a part of this campaign because I know a new ministry center will be critical in ensuring Wesley's impact on the Purdue community for years to come. I can't wait to get started!



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