



WORDS FROM WESLEY

A Full Year for Belmont Wesley Fellowship Rev. David Brent Hollis - Campus Minister

My appointment as full-time campus minister for Belmont Wesley Fellowship in July 2014 coincided with the Tennessee Annual Conference's recognition of BWF as a full campus ministry of the United Methodist Church. It is incredible to be a part of something new that God is doing as we are the first new campus ministry in the Tennessee Conference in over 25 years. As you will soon see, we are not starting in a slow way. Our first full-time year was packed with service opportunities, times of fellowship, and deeply meaningful worship and Bible study. In addition, we continue to seek to be a blessing to Belmont University by sharing the gifts God has given us to be in outreach. One of the primary ways we have done this is through the hosting of convocations featuring topics on gifts and vocation, justice and missions, and human sexuality. Well over two hundred students attended our convocations, and we are only getting started. While looking over our year, I hope you see all the ways your gifts make a difference in the lives of students. We are especially thankful for connections that help us reach future university students. I would love to speak with any youth about the importance of connecting with a campus ministry, and hope you will help me find the future leaders of BWF.



San Francisco Immersion Trip

This past spring break, I had the opportunity to journey with nine students on an immersion trip to San Francisco. The trip was sponsored by Belmont University Ministries (which oversees all campus ministry). Two students from Belmont Wesley Fellowship went on the trip, and through the generous giving of our donors, half of the cost of their trip was funded. Several other students began participating in BWF after the trip. We hope to continue promoting this and other trips sponsored by the university.



Angel, Sarah, and David pose for a photo in front of the Golden Gate bridge. The awe of the human made structure in the midst of God's creation left them speechless—which was a first in David's case.



Angel and Sarah visit a monument for equality at Angel Island where many people who were immigrating from Asia were held - sometimes for months - before entrance to the U.S. (or deportation for some). The students learned about the struggles of immigration then and now.

By giving to BWF you make these trips possible for more students. Thank you, and enjoy these reflections.

Sarah Partee, Class of 2017—To say that I had an unforgettable time on this trip is an understatement. I am a sophomore, but this spring was my first semester at Belmont. It is hard transferring to any school, but it is especially difficult in the middle of the school year. I grew up in the United Methodist Church, and my faith has always been very important to me. I immediately got involved with Belmont Wesley Fellowship when I got to Belmont. It has been such a blessing. There wasn't too much hesitation when I heard that I had a chance to go on the immersion trip.

I was nervous about going but I needed and wanted to make friends. In San Francisco, we toured several different non-profits and churches. We were able to visit Angel Island, Alcatraz, and the Golden Gate Bridge. The trip greatly impacted my understanding of God's Kingdom. It was so beneficial to leave Nashville and visit the other side of the country! San Francisco's culture is very diverse and unique, and it is easy for me to fall in love with the city and all the amazing organizations that work to make it incredible.

Although our schedule was sometimes hectic, the group itself was nearly perfect. We had two student leaders, two adults, and seven students (non-leaders). Attitudes were positive, laughter and tears were shared, and everyone was open-minded. Truly, I

made lasting friendships. Each day we debriefed and discussed on our experiences. We were all challenged and pushed out of our comfort zone during the week so it was very important to communicate.

Several times throughout every single day I stopped and thanked God for this opportunity. My heart felt so full on the trip.

Angel Brothers, Class of 2016 — When I first heard BWF was going on a university sponsored trip to San Francisco, California, I was extremely excited to venture out West. I honestly had no idea what to expect but it definitely did not disappoint.

By immersing myself into a culture that openly supports humans rights, my worldview was broadened and acceptance flooded in. By seeing the barracks where Chinese immigrants spent many years trying to reach freedom, my heart found forgiveness and compassion for those persons. By walking across a bridge that made me feel so infinitesimally small, I saw the beauty in Gods creation and discovered humility. And by journeying to a state thousands of miles from home with (almost) complete strangers, I found

Lakeshore Retreat

Just a couple weeks after the start of the semester in January, several BWF students attended a retreat at Lakeshore Camp and Retreat Center. The group met students from many other universities and learned about spiritual life in and beyond college. Some took part in the high ropes course and others learned various incredible ping-pong games. Lakeshore was the summer home for Hannah Jo Riley, Class of 2017 who worked on staff as the music director for the second summer in a row.



new friendships with fellow Belmont students who shared the same passion of service that I did.

The immersion trip to San Francisco truly taught me unconditional love and acceptance for the people we came with and the people we came to serve. God's creation could be seen throughout each part of San Francisco whether we were in the city, on Alcatraz Island, or on Angel Island. My heart was warmed most when we served over 600 homeless people breakfast at Glide Memorial UMC one very early morning.

The Immersion trip had a noticeable impact on the lives of the students who went, and I hope that Belmont Wesley can continue to participate in this adventure in the future.



The entire team of students works together to prepare meals at Project Open Hand. This nonprofit, which started as one retired woman making meals for her neighbor who was ill, now shares thousands of healthy meals everyday.

Congratulations to Kristen!

We are thrilled for Kristen Schussler who recently earned her Master of Music in Church Music from Belmont. Kristen served for two years as Belmont Wesley Fellowship's music leader and shared her incredible gifts. She will be missed as she moves on, and we wish her all the best as she pursues her vocation of church music leadership.



Students served as catering volunteers at the Miriam's Promise fundraiser in Franklin.

Thankful for Connectional Ministry

As a campus ministry, Belmont Wesley Fellowship exists within the connectional ministry of the Tennessee Conference UMC. Without the giving of churches through apportionments and the leadership of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, we would not exist. We seek to be mindful of our connection as we engage with churches, youth groups, and other extension ministries of the UMC (such as other campus ministries). This year we joined our brothers and sisters at Tennessee State University Wesley Foundation for worship and fellowship, volunteered through Project Transformation (where three of our students served as summer interns) and Miriam's Promise (the Tennessee Conference pregnancy, parenting, and adoption services agency), and shared a cookout with friends from Vanderbilt Wesley Fellowship. We hope to make deeper, wider, and stronger connections in the future as we serve in ministry together.



Casey Enright, Class of 2017 serves for her second summer as an intern with Project Transformation.



We were blessed with incredible weather as we joined Vandy Wesley for a cookout, yard games, and a hike at Percy Warner Park.





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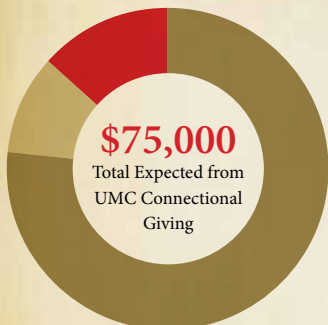
Support Belmont Wesley Fellowship

Send a BWF student on a mission trip and support our efforts to help them grow in Christ through experiences, study, and worship.

Give online today at belmontwesley.org (click on the Give tab) or by sending your tax-deductible donation by mail using the enclosed envelope.

Ways your giving makes a difference:

- \$50** Cover the retreat registration for a student
- \$100** Provide spiritual gifts curriculum for 25 students
- \$150** Fully fund a student's retreat experience
- \$250** Cover half of a student's immersion trip registration
- \$300** Provide worship supplies for a semester
- \$500** Fully fund a student's immersion trip



- Budgeted for Staff: \$58,728**
- Transportation, Office, and Administration: \$7,607**
- Student programming: \$10,000**

As we commit to funding our staff and operating expenses through connectional giving, 100% of direct support goes to student programming and experiences.

So far in 2015 we have received \$2,608 from direct church and family support (our goal is \$6,000). This has allowed us to purchase \$278 of spiritual gifts curriculum for students to explore their vocations. \$1,740 of this went toward an immersion mission trip, covering half the registration for two students. The remaining \$590 will be used to fund future student retreats.