

Belmont Wesley Fellowship

A United Methodist Campus Ministry at Belmont University



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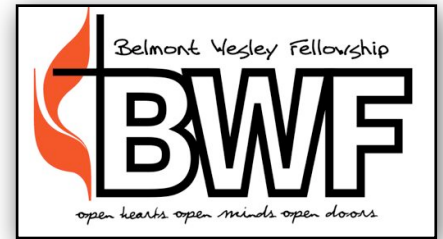
A New Campus Ministry in Nashville!



On Friday, October 21, 2011, Belmont Wesley Fellowship became the newest official Faith Development Organization of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. It also became the newest Wesleyan campus ministry in the Tennessee Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Students of Wesley Fellowship celebrated with joy and excitement, "like Christmas morning," said one student. The joy and excitement of October 21st was the culmination of months of planning, administrative procedures, applications, and behind the scenes work by students and church leaders in the Nashville area. Wesley Fellowship is truly grateful to the vision and commitment of the Tennessee Conference's Board of Higher Education

and Campus Ministry and the Methodist 'connection' in Tennessee.

As a Faith Development Organization, Wesley Fellowship seeks to aid the holistic formation of students as they journey through their degree programs. Wesley Fellowship, a community of grace, wisdom, and devotion is making an impact at Belmont University. Belmont University is one of the fastest growing Christian universities in the United States. The formally Baptist institution is experiencing a diversification of its student body, including religious expression. It is an exciting time for the students of Wesley Fellowship who claim the Methodist tradition and its emphasis on grace! Celebrate with us the start of Belmont Wesley Fellowship, its bright future discipling students, and the graduation of our seniors, Catherine Phelps and Sarah Musgrave.



Project Transformation Comes to Nashville!

Belmont Wesley Fellowship is proud to be a ministry partner with Project Transformation Tennessee! Project Transformation is a ministry endorsed by the United Methodist Church that provides college-age interns with the experience of leadership exploration and urban ministry. This summer, 32 Project Transformation interns will be hosted at Belmont University and create camp experiences for children at four urban United Methodist congregations in Nashville.



For more info, visit www.pttennessee.org!

Congratulations to Morgan Stafford who will serve as a Project Transformation intern this summer.

A Word of Thanks!

Belmont Wesley Fellowship wants to extend a special thank you to the people who have inspired and supported this ministry in its first year!

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|---|--------------------------|
| Rev. John Collett | BU University Ministries |
| Rev. Tom Gildemeister | Bethel Thomas |
| Rev. Ken Edwards | Gary Boling |
| Rev. Michael Williams | Belmont UMC |
| Rev. Matt Charlton | West End UMC |
| Jim Allen | TN Board of Higher Ed. |
| Nancy Northington | Nashville District |
| Chrissy Booth | TN UMC Conference |
| United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences | |

Meet the Campus Ministers!

Adam Kelchner

In the spring of 2011, after a period of discernment and soul-searching, I agreed to begin work on starting a Wesleyan campus ministry at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. The invitation to take lead on this work, along with fellow Vanderbilt Divinity School student, Nancy Hawthorne, came from the senior pastors of Belmont United Methodist Church and West End United Methodist Church.



While an undergraduate at Randolph-Macon College (a college with a long affiliation with the Methodist Church), I was not a part of the challenges and joys of campus ministry. For me, starting a campus ministry was going to be more than just a step of faith-it was a headfirst dive into the deep end of the pool.

At times during this first year on campus, there have been points when the learning curve was steep, particularly for the ministry's leaders. There are just some things that you will not find in theological education or student organization handbooks. Even amidst such challenges, I have returned often to an inner calling that sustains my love for this ministry and the students who participate in it.

My life's calling, to pastor, provides me with the humbling opportunity to journey alongside students, as they experience the joys, successes, challenges, and pain of life as young adults. Often students have called (or texted) me and Nancy for support and pastoral care as they face life's difficult challenges. As a



community, we bear life's burdens together in prayer and worship, especially celebrating Holy Communion together.

Often, this ministry is brightened by coffee gatherings overlooking Belmont Boulevard from Bongo Java or fellowship time at Belmont Bruin basketball games. It is always a privilege to hear a student tell their story or to see the many ways that students of Wesley Fellowship participate in church homes off campus. The task and joy of Belmont Wesley Fellowship is to form students as disciples by John Wesley's 'means of grace' including: corporate worship, prayer, participation in Holy Communion, the reading of Holy Scripture, and acts of mercy. Their formation as disciples of God in Jesus Christ is the best gift we have to offer to a hurting world.~Adam



Nancy Hawthorne

Being a campus minister at BU is a lot like setting up an improvisational skit. Many times I think Adam and I are hosts of "Who's Line is it Anyway." Adam and I create a "plan" for the semester with scripture, discussion questions, and ideas for service; however, our main task is to develop student leadership and assist students to make BWF their community. Relationships are the focus of our ministry and we check in weekly with our students and encourage their ideas. We participate, but do not control the outcome, which creates an environment for the Holy Spirit to move and for us to laugh with each other.

I am a campus minister today because my campus minister spent time with me, developing leadership and my gifts for ministry. I spent three years of college on staff at Florida State University Wesley Foundation. College is a time to explore and branch out into new things. With the support of my campus ministry community, I explored God who does not fit in human boundaries and loved me beyond imagination. After graduation with a degree in commercial music, I moved to Nashville. A couple years later, I began work at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the Division of Higher Education. These experiences fueled my desire to create a space for college students to explore who they are, what they believe about God and how to connect with their neighbor.

We need your support through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness for this ministry to continue to grow and impact the Belmont University community.~Nancy

Wesley Fellowship Student Spotlight!



Catherine Phelps

My name is Catherine Phelps, and I am a senior, Church Music major at Belmont University. Belmont Wesley is important to this campus because of its unique voice in the Belmont community. We truly uphold the values of the United Methodist Church with our open hearts, open minds, and open doors! We hope that the students (whether they affiliate with the United Methodist Church or not) who attend Belmont Wesley Fellowship's worship, discussions, and other events feel embraced and accepted. We hope that BWF can be a place where students can feel free to express their opinions about the things young Christians struggle with knowing that they will be met exactly where they are with love and support.

B.W.F. is especially important and dear to me because of the community I have experienced there. The people are genuine in their care and concern for my day-to-day hardships and joys. It is nice to have a weekly solace from the never-ending demands of schoolwork and social pressures to a place of acceptance and understanding. I enjoy having a group of people that I feel comfortable discussing matters of the heart, soul, and spiritual walk with. It keeps me accountable, and reminds me that I am not alone. The weekly meetings of BWF are always uplifting and filled with laughter leaving me with a renewed spirit to face the rest of the week.



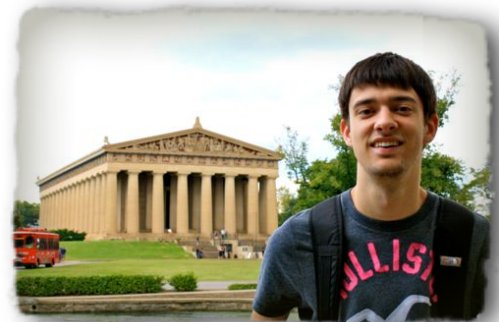
In the years to come, I hope this group of students will come together for the common goals of community, devotion, wisdom, and impact. I pray that they will grow in leadership in the same ways that I have been able to by helping to discover what Belmont Wesley Fellowship's role should be on this diverse campus. I hope they will find ways to enrich this already thriving culture of young people in a way that will show Christ's light.

Morgan Stafford

When we began the journey of starting a Methodist campus ministry nearly a year ago, I had no idea what to expect. I received a phone call from my pastor back home, encouraging me to attend an interest meeting about a new Methodist group on the Belmont campus. I attended the meeting and met some of the individuals who were interested in beginning this journey. I decided to be a part of this journey, and looking back on that decision today, I am certainly glad that God opened that door for me.

Belmont Wesley Fellowship is still a small group of less than a dozen students, but the relationships that have formed over the past two semesters have been a blessing. It is clear that our ministry has a place on Belmont's campus, a place where students can gather with open minds and open hearts. As a student leader in Belmont Wesley Fellowship, I have learned a great deal about the rewards, as well as the challenges, of starting a new ministry. I have witnessed firsthand that when we trust God and his faithfulness, He will walk alongside us in our efforts to glorify Him.

I am excited about the future of Belmont Wesley Fellowship in the years to come. I am thankful for the students and for our campus ministers, Nancy Hawthorne and Adam Kelchner, who have dedicated countless hours to this ministry. A solid framework has been built, and I am confident that our group will grow as God allows in the years to come. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of Belmont Wesley Fellowship, and I anticipate a bright future for our campus ministry.



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Return Service Requested

Belmont Wesley Fellowship



Graduation 2012!

Congratulations to the graduating seniors of Belmont Wesley Fellowship, Sarah Musgrave and Catherine Phelps. We wish you well and pray for the journey that is ahead!

Anything you would like to see added to our newsletter? Let us know!

Send any input you have to belmontwesleyfellowship@gmail.com