
◆ Friends of Wesley ◆

December 2016

Northwest Wesley Celebrates Return of Peer Ministry

After a one-year hiatus, peer ministry has once again become an integral part of the Northwest Wesley Foundation experience, and we at Northwest Wesley couldn't be happier!

Peer ministers are college students who help lead worship and other programming events offered by Northwest Wesley. They offer a ministry of presence within the Wesley Center by helping to host the facility. Peer ministers also help with upkeep and maintenance of the building and grounds. Traditionally, most peer ministers have lived in the apartment located in the Wesley Center basement, though this is not an official requirement of the program.

Former co-directors Don and Marjean Ehlers began the peer ministry program at Wesley during the early-1980s. Since then, dozens of college students have cycled through, helping put their stamp on Wesley, while leading other college students to experience the caring presence of Jesus Christ.

Because of leadership transition and the need to renovate the peer ministry apartment space, the program was put on hold for the 2015-2016 school year. Through the generosity of Friends of Wesley, those renovations have been made, and the program has been rebooted for 2016-2017. Six peer ministers have taken the reins: Lauren Foster, Alexis Heilig, Paul Keyser, Lindsey Madsen, Hannah Protzman and Jordyn Schieber. All but Paul and Hannah live in the new basement apartment.

"We are tremendously excited to have such quality individuals represent Northwest Wesley," director Travis Dimmitt said. "Because of their ministry, generosity and presence, we have seen an increase in the programming we can offer. More importantly, we have exponentially increased our ability to build relationships with people from multiple backgrounds, races and faiths. In these kinds of relationships and experiences, people find God. Peer ministers are a huge part of what we do here."

Website Offers Additional Way to Donate to Northwest Wesley

As always, an envelope marked "Friends of Wesley" is enclosed with this newsletter should you desire to donate and help fund the ministries offered through Northwest Wesley. As an added service to those who wish to give, a new part of our website is also up and running that will allow you to donate online any time you'd like. Simply visit us at www.northwestwesley.com/donate and, after a few quick clicks, we will receive your donation immediately. We at Northwest Wesley thank you for your support in whichever way it comes. Through your generosity, we are able to continue to show others God's love.



Paul Keyser, Jordyn Schieber, Hannah Protzman (top L to R)
Alexis Heilig, Lindsey Madsen and Lauren Foster (bottom L to R)



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Internship Program Opens Doors to Ministry

Of the many forms of outreach offered by Northwest Wesley, perhaps the most successful is Wesley's ministry internship program. This program allows students and other people to explore calls to vocational ministry by honing their craft through filling pulpits and providing programs in multiple rural Nodaway County, Missouri, churches. Currently, the program includes six interns who help serve four United Methodist churches, located in Burr Oak, Parnell, Ravenwood and Skidmore.

Northwest Wesley Director Travis Dimmitt said the success of the program is that it allows for ministry from both sides of the fence.

"It's a really valuable and rewarding program because it allows

both groups—interns and church people, to be in ministry with each other," Dimmitt said. "The interns conduct worship services and provide messages weekly, but the churches themselves have embraced their roles as developers of future ministers. They nurture the interns and come to think of them as family. That kind of relationship-building is pretty beautiful to see."

Wesley's ministry internship program has existed for approximately 15 years. In that time, numerous interns have gone on to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church, some in youth ministry, and some as fully ordained elders.

"I'm truly proud that our internship program has had such a positive and lasting impact on Missouri Methodism," Dimmitt said.

A Word From Travis . . .

Greetings, everyone! As I am writing these few lines, we've passed from the last warm days of Indian summer into a true Autumn here in northwest Missouri. As temperatures outside cool, the responsibilities our students face often heat up. I ask that you keep our Wesley students in your thoughts and prayers as they continue on their journeys to become whole persons on their faith journeys while here at Northwest Missouri State University. I ask that you keep Northwest Wesley Foundation in your prayers as well, that we might continue to be a place that offers the caring spirit of Jesus Christ to all, regardless of race, faith, creed, sexual orientation or status. God's love knows no bounds. May we continue to be reminded of this fact.

Finally, I ask prayers for me as Northwest Wesley director. May the decisions I make be for the ultimate good of this place that I love so much and, more importantly, for the people it strives to serve. Thanks and God bless.

Northwest Wesley Needs

Carpeting in the lounge.

Curtains throughout the entire Wesley Center.

Replacement of all florescent lights on the main floor.

Your donations help us fill these pressing needs.