

## CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

As my sixth year as Director of the Clemson Wesley Foundation comes to a close, I am beginning to see the Spirit move in some exciting ways, both on the campus of Clemson and on other campuses across the South Carolina Conference.

Clemson, the town and university, is a very Christian-friendly place, at least to the casual observer. Since first arriving I noticed that while there were many who claim the name “Christian” here, there were a pitiable number of folks who seemed cognizant of the implications associated with following the One who met his death on a cross. For most of my time in Clemson, for example, the two most common topics that I have been asked to address have been (1) the role of women in ministry and (2) the proper timing and mode for baptism. I have been praying for several years now for the day when our campus would begin wrestling with the important topics of our day and their generation – the wars throughout our world, the lack of educational opportunities for so many in our state, the widening gap between the wealthy and the poor in our world, and the responsibility of the Christian community to promote more faithful stewardship of God’s creation.

In recent months, it has been exciting to sense the wind of the Spirit blowing in new ways. I have speculated that this new wind is attributed to an elevated social consciousness brought to the surface by the ravages of Katrina and the prolonged wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Whatever the root causes might be, real change is happening in our community. More and more students (and non-students) are engaging in serious Christian conversation far removed from the “cheap grace” religiosity that has pervaded our campus in previous years. Only God knows where this new Spirit will lead us, but it is exciting to dream of what a large, Christian-friendly campus turned outward toward our suffering world, broken state and world might be able to accomplish for the Kingdom.

In the midst of these changes, the CW community continues to mature, evolve and grow in its presence and reach throughout the greater Clemson community. With the assistance of four Program Staffers (Nicole Keen, Rachel Mollica, Steven Spangler and Ryan Spurrier – all upperclassmen who serve in a peer ministry role), the ministry continues to reach out to students through a variety of Worship, Mission, Small Group, Retreat and Social opportunities. Well over 400 students are active participants in the life of Clemson UMC and/or CW, and dozens of students are involved in small group Bible Studies, many of which are student-led. This spring we expect to graduate another five dozen or more seniors to serve the Church and world in the years to come through lay and, in a few cases, full-time ministry.

Each year I am reminded of how little we could accomplish without the help of God and God’s people. Special thanks to the staff and members of Clemson UMC who do so much to support CW’s ministry and me personally, and to all the other “people called Methodists” throughout the South Carolina Conference who support CW through their prayers, apportionments and other gifts. We are humbled and forever grateful by your faithfulness.

*Rev. C. Lane Glaze, Campus Minister*