

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has provided a spiritual home for students at Winthrop University since 1932. So yes, you guessed it – this is our 75th year in ministry! How amazing!? Adjacent to the campus, the Winthrop Wesley Foundation is not just a building, but a community of faith and support as students and young adults grapple with questions of vocation, identity, faith, and all of the twists, turns, and intricacies of life in the midst of the rigors of the academy. Students are challenged here, nurtured here, and loved here.

What does this look like during the week???

Wednesday night Dinner and Program - We are thankful to local United Methodist Churches for providing our home-cooked meals each Wednesday night. Our programs range from vocational discernment to prayer to fellowship nights to social justice concerns like The Corridor of Shame to conflict management and much more.

Monday One Anothering Bible Study – Each Monday we gather for lunch and sharing of our highs and lows of the week followed by Bible Study. During the Fall semester we looked at the *nooma* DVD series and during the Spring semester we have been studying the book of Mark.

Sunday Night CROSSFIRE Worship Service – Open to college students and young adults in the Rock Hill area, this informal worship service is a chance to worship and find renewal through prayer, Word, and song.

Some highlights of the year:

Wesley is active in the world and surrounding communities in a variety of ways: The Charleston-Winthrop Mission Weekend at the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant; organizing and leading a 24 hour homeless simulation and hunger vigil during Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week; the Rock Hill Homeless Count; the Souper Bowl of Caring; the Alyce T. Guettler Hunger Run; a Hurricane Relief Trip to D'Iberville, Mississippi where 15 students were able to work and repair homes over Spring Break; Relay for Life; and volunteering with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our special outreach is the York County CROP-WALK, which is housed at The Wesley Foundation. This year's walk was dedicated to the memory of Risher Brabham, our beloved campus minister here for 27 years and the walk's founder, and we raised our highest total in the history of the walk - \$34,753.87!

Students are also given opportunities to grow in their identity, their faith, and their world view through opportunities such as our Fall Rafting and Spiritual Life Retreat at Asbury Hills, the MLK Lecture with Winthrop Cooperative Campus Ministries, a time of renewal and nature on our Camp Out to Crowder's Mountain, and by three of our students participating in this year's Exploration.

One of the great things about college life is getting to know each other, and fellowship events are an important part of Wesley as we went to a Charlotte Knights baseball game, played laser tag with one another, enjoyed movie nights and game nights at Wesley, and celebrated Christmas and Easter dinners at the Jeter house. On our snow day students even spontaneously gathered at Wesley to play games, eat pizza, and watch movies together on their day off!

This year we have had a large group of freshman enter the campus ministry and their enthusiasm and vision has been exciting to witness. We have also started our first servant ministry team where our student leaders are taking an active role in the planning and implementing of our ministry. Campus ministry provides such a rich and meaningful fellow journeyer to these young adults and we thank all of our partners in ministry around our community, the district, and the conference. May the church discover anew the vision of campus ministry – it's importance and indeed necessity – as we encounter the realities and possibilities of our present and future church!

Narcie M. Jeter, Campus Minister