

CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Charleston Wesley Foundation has had a year of growth and grace. As our alumni base grows the internet is becoming an essential method of keeping in touch. We are now the proud grandparent to three beautiful children born to alumni: Michael to Michael McPherson, Citadel alumnus, Makayla to Anthony Reynolds, Citadel alumnus and Emeline to Aaron Meadows, Citadel alumnus. Our hearts go out to Christy and Aaron Meadows on the passing of Emeline this fall. Rest in the assurance that Jesus has a big rocking chair and Emeline is resting in the arms of our Divine Parent.

Mallory Forte is now in her second year at Candler School of Theology. Mallory, you make us so proud. Aaron Meadows is now a commissioned probationary elder in this fine conference. Aaron, we are delighted with your progress. Bill Houpt and Christopher Waldrop are serving in the armed forces in Iraq. Brandon Kirch is now a certified Navy Seal. Vaya con Dios!

The groups on the four campuses we are blessed to serve continue to flourish. Bethel UMC- Charleston continues to be the home for our College of Charleston programming. Thank you for continuing to make ministry to the college students a priority. The Charleston Southern University group continues to grow despite graduations. God is gracious. The CSU gospel choir continues to bless me and others. This winter I was fortunate enough to attend the Fifth Annual Concert of Worship and Praise at Northwoods Baptist Church, featuring the CSU Wind Ensemble. What a night of praise, prayer and worship we experienced there. Thank you, Keisha Wilkins and Wade Hurst for using your magnificent musical gifts to glorify God and edify the Church Universal.

Wesley UMC- Ladson, once again thank you for being the church home to many of the Wesley Foundation CSU students. The group at Medical University of South Carolina continues to be the most diverse of the groups; students, staff and faculty enrich our discussions and time together. Rev. Joe Cate of Point Hope UMC and Mary Ann Gilkeson, you truly are the wind beneath our wings. Your dedication, love and gifts continue to be the driving force behind Wesley at MUSC - or as it called TGIF (Thank God Its Friday). The Wesley Foundation group at Citadel is both active and growing. At the SCUMSM spring retreat Chase Hurst, Citadel cadet, was re-elected as the Vice Chairperson for year 2008-2009. He will be representing Charleston Wesley Foundation at the National Student Forum in Washington DC this summer.

Charleston Wesley Foundation in Mission had another successful year. We sponsored two adolescents in the HALOS angel tree event. Our annual Mission weekend with Winthrop Wesley Foundation at the United Methodist Relief Center was a time of Christian action, reflection and fellowship for all. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge John Wesley UMC's generous and selfless financial underwriting of this weekend.

Because of your answer to God's call students who would not have been financially able to attend gave of themselves to help those even less fortunate. Moreover, your generous Christian act allowed Charleston Wesley Foundation to meet the UMRC financial need as well as their need for human hands and feet. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. The United Methodist connection is alive and well!

To the beloved churches of the Charleston district, thank you for your unwavering support in gifts of food, time and finances. Trinity UMC, you are our backbone in your selfless giving of physical space and office support. Our grateful hearts seem so inadequate but please know that we are deeply appreciative of your continuing Christian action. The ministry of Charleston Wesley Foundation would not be flourishing and innovative without the guidance, prayers and support of the dedicated Charleston Wesley Foundation Board of Directors. We are so grateful to all of the prayerful, generous churches of the Charleston District and of the South Carolina conference for your unceasing prayers and unwavering support. God bless each of you.

Lisa c. Hawkins, Campus Minister