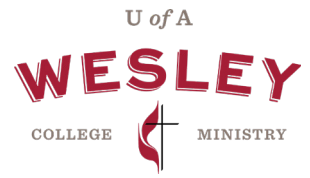


A MESSAGE FROM OUR COLLEGE PASTOR



"If people just understood the power of the Holy Spirit, then everyone would be in church." These words came out effortlessly – the reflections of a senior student who has been involved with the Wesley College Ministry since her freshmen year.

Technically, the Wesley is not a church and we're thankful for the many churches who make our ministry at the U of A possible. But as you can imagine, for the majority of the young men and women who come through our doors on a weekly basis, the Wesley is their de facto church. No longer living at home and now faced with the looming prospect of setting up a future home and life for themselves after graduation, many students come to realize something wonderful – they need Jesus.

We see this firsthand every day here on campus. In this past Fall semester, we have watched our Tuesday night worship attendance double. Half of the growth came from brand new freshmen who visited our ministry and decided to stay. The other half came from our Wesley students organically reaching out to their roommates, classmates, coworkers and cousins – "Hey you gotta come to Wesley, you'd be crazy not to!"

Free food and fantastic community certainly don't hurt, but deep down they recognize a need for God in their lives. All of a sudden, understanding God, His word, and what it means to be a Christian on a daily basis becomes very important. Though the word "discipleship" makes today's college students a little nervous, the practice of intersecting their lives with the Gospel in Christian community does not. We added 6 small groups this last semester and have already added 2 more this Spring.

Far more than any number of small groups or tally of attendance – just as I quoted our student above – we are experiencing lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Just like John Wesley's vision for early Methodist gatherings, our entire purpose here at the U of A is to create a community where God can touch every aspect of our daily lives with His Gospel. As you read this report, I hope you can see how faithful He has been to do just that!

Daniel Rupp
College Pastor and Director

