



CROSSWALK

Crosswalk
Spring, 2010

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Your future right now probably looks a lot like a jungle. As you enter it, you feel excited, eager, and possibly a little lost. You don't know if you have chosen the right trail, if you have to right tools and gear, or if the promised rewards really exist."

"As you enter the jungle of your future, be wary: there are many treasures to be found, but only one is worth seeking— God's will for your life."

"You must choose the right path by following God's lead. He is our guide through the jungle. He has provided us a guidebook, his Word. He has promised to lead us past the dangers of a world that honors what is worthless and into his salvation."

At the Wesley House we are changing our worship style and what we do during our time together. It is exactly like this quote says: It looks a lot like a jungle. As we enter it we feel excited, eager, and possibly a little lost.

We are thrilled to start looking at how we can bring more people to the Wesley House to worship and have fun on Thursday nights. One of our new ideas is to cook dinner

together every Thursday. Many college students (including myself) do not know how to prepare easy, healthy meals; so every Thursday we will be working together learning to cook good food. It's a great way to have fun, learn, and interact with people, and we can all enjoy our cooking efforts together.

When you change you need to focus on why you are where you are in the first place. Conversing with current Wesley students, I have asked them what the Wesley House is to them. All of the students answered along the same lines: It is a group of friends who have different opinions, but who are all Christians, coming together to worship, hang out, and have a good time. As one student put it, "It's a place where you can come and it doesn't matter what kind of a week you had and it doesn't matter what kind of mood you were in before, you always leave happy."

I have high hopes for the Wesley House.. Thinking of the future can be scary, but the world stands before us with limitless possibilities and endless opportunities. Life isn't a destination, but a journey; we all encounter unexpected curves, turning

points, mountaintops, and valleys. God is the one who knows our future and the paths we will take during that journey. I have no doubt that as long as we keep our sight set on Him we can reach all of our goals!

Jennifer Logan

Co-Pastors Note: Jennifer has been our Peer Minister & Campus Coordinator this spring.

As we move into the future, student involvement will be the main catalyst for the growth of our ministry.

This summer, for the first time in a long time, Jenny represented U of M' Student Forum. She joined students from across the nation to learn ways to connect our mission with students across campus.

Student Forum is an annual gathering of college students under the banner of the United Methodist Student Movement. The 2010 Student Forum, held at Shenandoah University in Virginia, focused on social justice activism with a directing theme: Jesus' Story, Empowering Disciples. md

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Please Join Us!

- Dinner every Thursday during classes @ 6:30, Worship & Fellowship to Follow
- Tabling @ UIM Orientation, June 24 & July 8, 8-10pm in the UC Ballroom
- FREE Welcome BBQ, Thursday, Sept. 9 @ 6pm at the Wesley House, 1327 Arthur Ave. across from Miller Hall
- Fellowship on the Oval or the Lawn, Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2 (TWTh first week of classes) and Sept. 7, 8 (TW second week of classes) for a little disc, hacky-sack, or football!

ONCE A WESLEYAN: CATCHING UP WITH TWO GRADS

Hello fellow Wesleyans!

I hope everyone is doing great since the last time I've seen you all. I was recently in Missoula but didn't get a chance to see everyone I wanted to (JENNY!) but will be back again soon. A lot has happened in my life since I graduated from UM. I traveled to Hawaii and worked as a coffee barista for a few months, returned to Browning and worked as a Mental Health Associate for awhile, and now I am the custodian at the Browning United Methodist Church :).

You never know the direction that life will take you and as trite as the Latin phrase *Carpe Diem* may be, it is a principle that I am coming to live by. I know as college students we may feel that we are directionless at times, even when it seems we have everything planned out for us. I am living proof that feeling of being lost may persist for many of us, even after we graduate. It is important that we do not lose sight of the "Big Picture" and realize that there is so much more out there than just us as individuals, so many lives to be touched and injustices to fix.

What we can do is trust. Trust in the Lord and trust in ourselves that everything will come to be as it is supposed to be. As finite as our existence in this world is, shouldn't we cherish the time we have and relish in the opportunities provided to us? I think so. I have found that as unpredictable and crazy as things can get, it has been my faith that has kept me safe, happy, and sane. I just wanted to share that with you all and I hope you find that it is the same for you as well. Thank you for letting me fill you in on what I've been up too and I hope to see you all soon.

Tyler

Hello fellow Wesleyans!

It's amazing how fast time passes and how far people travel in their lives.

A year ago I was at the Wesley House helping lead worship on Thursday nights, goofing off with the band, and enjoying Becky's delicious cookies (which I really miss...hint-hint, Becky). When I left Wesley House my plan was to spend a year in Washington before I left for the Peace Corps to teach in Africa. Of course things always change. :-)

So now here I am, working three different jobs in various veins of teaching, going to graduate school working towards a Masters in Education, and helping found a new ministry at my hometown church called **CrossRoads** for young adults post-high

school. You could say that Wesley House inspired my efforts but that is a gross understatement. Wesley House drove me to create a very similar ministry out in Western Washington. The idea is that we have a place for friends and family to gather and worship together no matter where they are coming from, what they have faced, and what their ultimate goals are. We just gather for fellowship, friendship, and God. It's amazing and it's what the Wesley House has always been about.

Though I miss my friends and the goofiness I enjoyed at Wesley, I hope that this new ministry will bring new friends, new goofiness, and closer connection and relationship with God into my life.

Thanks for everything, *Laura*



Tyler & Laura (at top) at last year's spring retreat.

HEAR, O ISRAEL

Shema, Yisrael, YHWH Eloheinu, YHWH Echad.

שמע ישראל יהוה אלהינו יהוה אחד.

Hear, O Israel: the Lord, our God, is One!

Hear, O Israel: Our Lord is the One (true) God!

SEEKING GOD'S WILL FOR THE WESLEY HOUSE

The common thread with this issue's three contributions from current and recent students is seeking God's will into the future. It is no surprise that the Wesley House is going through a similar discernment project, seeking God's will for United Methodist ministry on the University of Montana campus.

It is inevitable, in a way, that a group serving students should share a similar outlook with those students. However, we find ourselves in a powerful place because of this very uncertainty.

Discernment is easily said, but not so easily embraced. The changes in campus ministry over the past 5 years have been a unique blessing which has put the Wesley House into a place very like that of the students who are the lifeblood of our work.

How, then, are we trying to discern our place on campus?

I—Student Leadership

Students have always been the focus at Wesley House, but now they are the moving force as well. In the future, Wesley House will be campus ministry by students for students; the pastors and board will simply be scaffolding and support.

Right now, there are only a handful of students at the heart of Wesley, but they are committed to growth and success, creating a community of Christians and spreading the Good News on campus.

We are looking for students who are passionate about community, friendship, fellowship, and service. It takes commitment to carve out time once a week, and that commitment is the foundation upon which our community is built.

We are blessed by students who have extra time, who have ideas of how to grow our community, who want to serve others. However, the simple devotion of showing up and engaging in worship and fellowship is the first step into the future.

II—Relevant Worship

As pastors, Karen and Mark have spent 2 years at Wesley House experimenting and developing a unique style of worship: committed to tradition and shaped by the Bible, yet relevant to today's world.

Every Thursday at 7:15 (following dinner at 6:30) we gather informally—usually around the Big Table, but sometimes in other places: outside for Earth Day and in the basement during our vigil for the persecuted church. We sing cutting-edge contemporary songs, emphasize community during our prayers, and embrace discussion and interactivity.

Once a month we share table fellowship during worship with either communion led by a local elder or a love feast following the Wesleyan tradition. We also have alternative worship at least once a month as we share experiences of Christians from other places and other times: worshipping in hiding like Christians under totalitarian regimes, chanting like monastics in the Middle Ages, or singing with abandon on Gospel night.

III—Relaxed Fellowship

Every Thursday, we offer a free meal to all who will share at our table. We serve dinner from 6:30 to 7:00pm, and all are welcome.

In the earliest church, worship was based around a shared meal. Sharing a meal was and is a beautiful way for people to build community, and that is the focus of our meal.

This is time for everyone to share about their week, their lives, their experiences. The mood is sometimes sedate (often around exams) and sometimes raucous (especially at special dinners like Mardi Gras & Cinco de Mayo), but it is always a time for students to share freely.

As students' time allows, we generally spend time after worship in fellowship, too. Sometimes we enjoy games like *Apples to Apples*, *Pictionary*, *Cranium*, or *Settlers of Catan*; sometimes we simply share desserts and each other's

company.

Every church must first be a community, and we want the Wesley House to be a sanctuary for everyone, an open space for the community which is at the center of our mission.

IV—Exploring the World

Religion is relevant on campus; God goes to college, too.

There are still questions: What does it mean to be a Christian on campus? How does a student on the 21st Century campus "practice" Christianity? What does it take to follow our rabbi, Jesus, in an increasing pluralistic world—socially, economically, religiously, ethnically? How does a 2,000 year old tradition "fit" in an environment where technology and science continually press us into the future?

In April we celebrated an alternative worship for Earth Day. During our time together, we shared scriptures that embrace a concern for the world in which we live. We realized that, "In the beginning," God created this earth as the site of our relationship with the divine. We found that the first Tabernacle was built from 100% post-consumer recycled materials. We even found that—seen through the prism of a new point-of-view called environmental racism—the message Jesus echoed from the age of the prophets, the focus of His Good News, can be understood to include intimate and radical concern with the state of our environment: The Poor are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation.

This sort of exploration of scripture and our tradition are central to all we are doing at the Wesley House to seek out God's will and direction: **Seeking Student Leadership, Experiencing Relevant Worship, Embracing Relaxed Fellowship, and Exploring God's World.**

As with all we do, we want to know what you think. Send your thoughts, comments, suggestions, and additions to UMWesleyHouse@gmail.com.

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*Serving students and young adults at
the University of Montana and across Missoula*

The Wesley Foundation at the University of Montana is committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with university students, faculty, and staff, and nurturing ongoing Christian discipleship.

We seek to:

- *offer a safe environment to explore questions of faith;*
- *invite all into a community of worship and celebration;*
- *provide opportunities for service to the community, the church, and the world;*
- *support students as they pursue their education and explore avenues of leadership; and,*
- *equip all to live and share the Good News.*

We believe that Christian discipleship can, does, and will transform individuals, societies, and the world.

Ἁγία Ἔσχια (HAGIA HESCHIA, THE HOLY SILENCE)

Holy Saturday has long been one of my favorite holidays of the ecclesiastic year. For most folks, I imagine it's just the day before Sunday, THE Sunday. Whether it is spent relaxing or preparing for Easter's worship, egg hunts, and dinners, I dare say it is rarely celebrated for its own sake.

For me, Holy Saturday marks the ritual end of Lent. Whatever my devotion has been for the year, I always try to complete my journey some time Holy Saturday.

Traditionally, Holy Saturday is celebrated for the Harrowing of Hell. From Judaism, we inherited a felt need to 'fill in the blanks' in scripture, and one blank filled in by the first Christians was, What happened between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection?

The most popular answer was that Jesus went into Limbo, the land where the dead await the Resurrection of the

Saints at the End of Days, and delivered the saintly dead into heaven. This was eventually extended to include all the dead who would accept Christ's deliverance. The popular orthodox icon of the Harrowing of Hell shows Jesus holding Adam's and Eve's hands and physically pulling them out of the tomb.

During Lent, I "re-wrote" the Labyrinth in the corner lot. Some of our students became quite regular travelers on the labyrinth, but I had an ulterior motive.

For me Holy Saturday and Jesus' journey from Golgotha, through the tomb, and into the Resurrection is uniquely connected to the story of the labyrinth. Like Theseus, who braved the Cretan labyrinth and slew the Minotaur, Jesus travels into the earth, returning triumphant after overthrowing the power of Death.

A friend of mine introduced me to a less-well-known icon associated with

Holy Saturday. This icon shows a female angel called The Holy Silence. On either side of Holy Silence's head is Christ's monogram, IC XC. She represents the silence that filled the celestial spheres as the Word of God went into *Sheol*, the silence of the empty sanctuary after the vestments are stripped from the altar.

The labyrinth is a place to experience that Holy Silence any time. It is a place to embrace Silence and consider the world. It is a place to experience Silence when the grain of wheat has fallen into the earth but is yet to yield ten-fold, even an hundred-fold. It is a place to experience that Silence which ripens our lives.

What lies at the heart of the labyrinth? Golgotha and the tomb, or the Tree of Life? The Holy Mountain or the Holy City? You never know when you start; to find out, you just have to walk...and experience the Holy Silence.