

Seminary Experience

WESLEY

JOURNAL

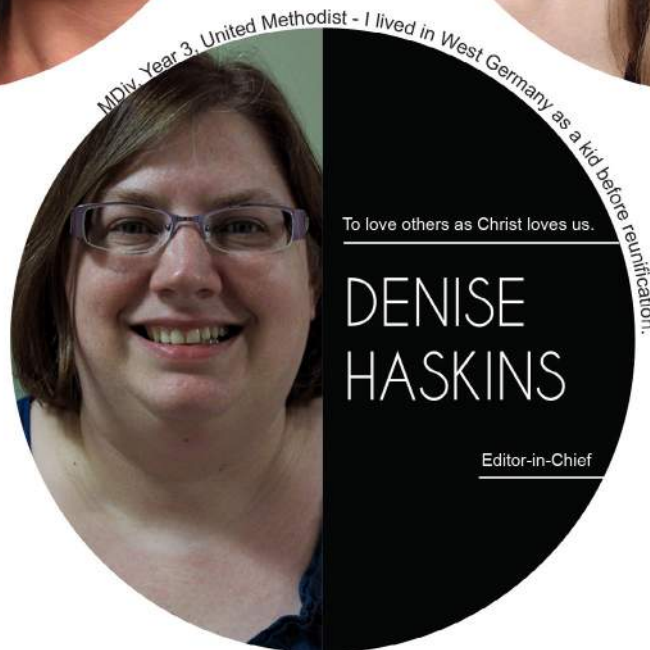
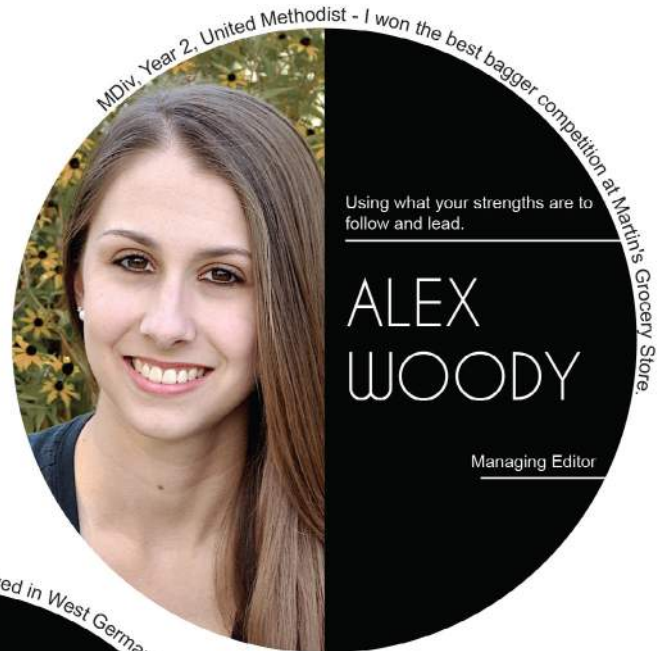
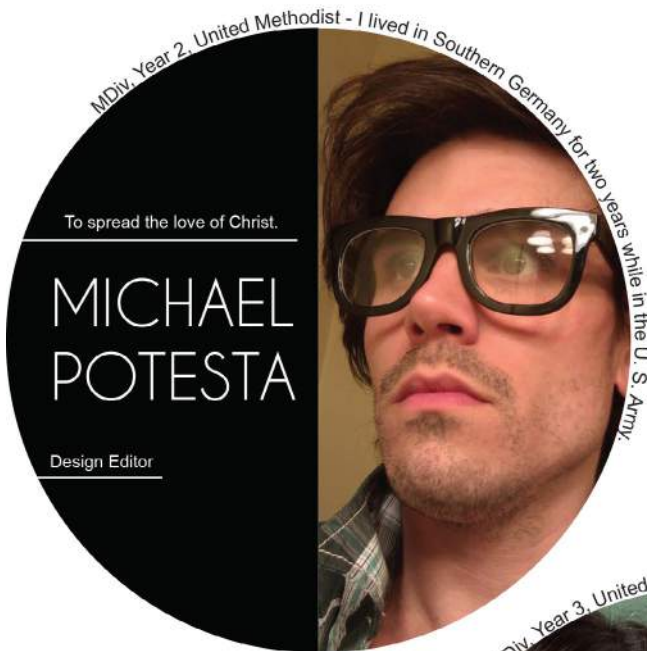
08 28 15



What Does a Disciple Look Like?



# WJ Staff Thoughts on Discipleship



Editor-in-Chief, Denise Haskins  
Managing Editor, Alex Woody  
Design Editor, Michael Potesta

Wesley Journal is the monthly publication serving Wesley Theological Seminary students, staff, faculty, and administration. It is published four times per semester during the academic year when classes are in session by the Student Council and made available for free to the Wesley community and others upon request.

Although the editors and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication was correct at press time, the editors and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

The views and opinions expressed in the Wesley Journal are those of the contributing authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Wesley Theological Seminary or its Student Council.

Wesley Journal  
August 28, 2015  
Vol. , No. 1

Copyright ©2015 by Wesley Theological Seminary Student Council; 4500 Massachusetts Ave, NW; Washington, DC 20016

For editorial concerns, please e-mail [wesley\\_journal@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:wesley_journal@wesleyseminary.edu).

# Table of Contents



---

<b>Disciples as Leaders</b>	<b>p.4</b>
<b>Disciples in Service</b>	<b>p.8</b>
<b>Disciples Get Organized</b>	<b>pp.6-7</b>
<b>Disciples in Community</b>	<b>p.8</b>
<b>Disciples on Staff</b>	<b>p.10</b>
<b>Disciples Overseas</b>	<b>p.11</b>
<b>Disciples Go Downtown</b>	<b>p.9</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>p.5</b>



## Disciples in Leadership

**Ellen LaCroix Fillette**

President, Student Council

When you take the time to think about it, the phrase “a disciple in leadership” is really an oxymoron. To be a disciple and to be a leader are seemingly opposite tasks. To be a disciple means that we are passionately modeling our life after our leader. A disciple of Jesus commits their whole being to living a life that follows the example of the one we call Christ. To be a disciple is to be a committed follower. On the other hand leadership implies that others are following you. As a matter of fact, being a leader, by standard definition, necessitates that you have followers. It is not possible to call yourself a leader if no one follows. So if we take these two definitions and try to smash them together we end up with a distorted idea of a linear relationship starting with God and then trickling down: leader, follower, leader, follower, and so on.

The image that comes to mind is the scene from Peter Pan where the lost boys are “following the leader.” As they journey together each lost boy –one after another in line- is both a leader and a follower doing exactly as the boy ahead of him in line did. But this can’t be a right image of disciple leadership. It runs the risk of ending up like a particularly difficult game of telephone, and it looks nothing like the Kingdom of God that belongs to the least of these or the Kingdom of God where the last will be first. But like any oxymoron (Some of my favorites include “jumbo shrimp,” “known rumor,” “act naturally,” and “freezer burn.”), I think these two words take on a different meaning altogether when they are combined.

Being a disciple in leadership means that I am passionately modeling my life after Christ and inviting others to join me in following. A disciple does not lead from in front of others, but rather alongside of others. It is faithfully living into the vision of the Kingdom of God and inviting others to participate in working towards the manifestation of this vision. Disciple leadership requires that I recognize that I am only one part of the body of Christ, no more or less important than the others. Most importantly, disciple leadership offers the assurance of knowing that I never walk alone. God goes before me, and my brothers and sisters walk beside me hand in hand.

**Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson**

President Wesley Theological Seminary

I sometimes think: Pick one. You can either be a follower of Jesus or a leader of people. Jesus doesn’t care about much of what we do to be effective leaders in the church and its institutions. I like to reconcile that by remembering Jesus’ direction to the disciples: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” But I know just before that he says: “You received without paying, give without pay. Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper in your belts,” and that doesn’t square with my lifestyle.

I also know we don’t ever get to start from scratch. As disciples or leaders, our DNA, family history, relationships, the way we see the world, the neighborhood we live in, our need for food, water and shelter, and the individuality of everyone we work with – all these require us to try to be faithful in our current reality. Jesus began by reminding them: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” I believe a disciple in leadership is a trust walk through the world the way it is toward a vision for what God wants it to be.

The way I try to live and lead in that tension is first, to seek humility and wisdom. I get this from prayer and study and from other disciples, which includes my family, the faculty and staff, members of our board and the people who are a part of our extended seminary community. I surround myself with people who are also trying to be disciples and I try (sometimes), to let Jesus lead me through them.

And then, I try to practice a leadership guided by a vision of the kingdom of God and the way the organization I lead can be a part of that. When I was inaugurated as president in 2002, I saw the vision for Wesley this way: “The challenge to Christian disciples in this generation is to live the Great Commandment and the Great Commission on a global scale. This requires hopeful people of character who practice Christian values such as compassion, forgiveness, generosity, justice and humility, and who have the conviction and courage of their faith to lead sacrificial lives.” That is still how I see our mission.



### Disciples Across Traditions

The first course approved for the new Certificate of Study in Ecology and Theology being offered by the Washington Theological Consortium is scheduled to be hosted at Wesley this semester. The 2-credit Liturgics Practicum on Ecology and Worship (PW-316) will be taught Monday evenings 5:30pm-7:30pm by Professor Joseph Bush, who also serves as the coordinator of the certificate program. Students interested in earning the certificate will complete 12 credits through the Consortium in the following four areas: Religious Heritage in Ecological Perspective, Ecology of Religion in Socio-Cultural Contexts, Ministerial and Public Leadership for Ecological Integrity, and Elective in Ecological Studies.

The Consortium is already promoting courses in each of these areas for Fall, January, Spring, and Summer terms. This year, the courses will be offered at Wesley Theological Seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary, Howard University School of Divinity, and Gettysburg Seminary. For more information, visit [www.WashTheo-Con.org/ecology](http://www.WashTheo-Con.org/ecology).



### Disciples & The Arts

The Dadian Gallery presents "Ordinary Objects in Ordinary Time," an exhibition of sculptures by artist Ginger Geyer. These surprising and delightful replicas of everyday items are crafted from hand-built, glazed porcelain. The artist is also a seminarian with experience in pastoral ministry and spiritual formation. The show opens August 31st; the artist will speak about her work at a reception on September 24th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm in the gallery. All are welcome.

### Upcoming Events

Sat 8.29 @ 7:30p on the Wesley Lawn == Wesley Does the Drive-In: The Lego Movie! (Housing, ABS, OSW)

Mon 8.31 @ 5:15p == Plumblane Meeting

Wed 9.2 @ 10:00p on the Refectory Lawn == Capture the Flag (WF)

Thu 9.3 == BBQ Party (KSA)

Mon 9.7 == Welcoming Service (KSA)

Mon 9.7 == Labor Day Cookout (Housing)

Mon 9.14 @ 7:30a in Elderdice == Second Monday Lecture: Called and Sent (Rev. Dr. Susan Henry Crowe)

Thu 9.17 @ 5:00p in K105 == Faith & Politics Society Meeting

Thu 9.24 @ 4:00pm in Dadian Gallery = Reception & Artist's Talk: "Ordinary Objects in Ordinary Time" (Ginger Geyer)

Sat 9.26 == Awareness Walk with DC Stop Modern Slavery (Plumblane)

Sun 9.27 == 911 Unity Walk (Plumblane)

Sun 9.27 @ 6:00p in NRH Millian Lounge == Game Night (WF)

Sun 10.4 == Prudential FREE 5K (Literally Active)

### Recurring Events

ABS Community Forum == 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:00p-7:00p beginning September 15

ABS Worship == 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:00p-7:00p in Oxnam Chapel

Chapel == Tuesdays 11:00a-12:00p in Oxnam Chapel

KSA Prayer Meeting == Thursdays 9:30p-10:30p

Wednesday Night Chapel == Wednesdays 6:00p-7:00p beginning September 9

\*In need of musicians for Wednesday Night Chapel. Please contact Carol Cook Moore for details.\*

Wesley Fellowship Meeting == Every Other Tuesday 5:00p-6:00p in Bess Jones



## ABS (Association of Black Seminarists)

Montreal Martin, President



ABS was founded on the principle of unity, and its sole purpose is to create an environment and atmosphere for [seminary] students who are of the Black/African Diaspora to fellowship, worship, and discuss the needs of our specific communities. Within such a community, one is able to share his/her unique gifts, talents, achievements, religious, ethnic, and personal experiences.

Worship every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in Oxnam Chapel. On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, community forums addressing the needs of one's spiritual well-being and other community needs.

For more information, contact [abs.blackseminarians@gmail.com](mailto:abs.blackseminarians@gmail.com)




## Asah

Erin Wheeler, President



*Asah*, whose name is the transliteration of the Hebrew word "to fashion," seeks to nurture students, faculty, and staff to infuse the arts with their faith through arts programming, service projects, and social events.

 *Asah*: A Meeting of the Arts and Theology

## Plumblin

The mission of Plumblin is to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ by bringing to bear on the consciousness of the Wesley Community issues related to social justice and proclaiming the essential nature of justice to the beloved community and the call of the Church. Plumblin advocates that such work towards ending local and global unjust suffering might become foremost in the institutional psyche

## KSA (Korean Student Association)

Gi Il Lee, President



KSA focuses on looking after the well-being of the on-campus Korean population through supportive interactions with the community on a spiritual and practical level.

Prayer meeting every Thursday night from 9:30pm to 10:30pm.

For more information, contact [nayagil@gmail.com](mailto:nayagil@gmail.com)

## Of Sacred Worth

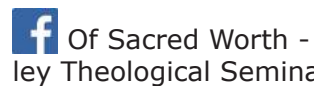
AhannaLise Stevens-Jennings, President



Of Sacred Worth exists to support the inclusion of all people regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities in worship spaces. This group especially focuses on promoting understanding of LGBTQ people in the church through various opportunities for discussion and dialogue.

Meetings held every other Thursday at 12noon beginning September 3rd.

For more information, contact [ahnnalisejennings@gmail.com](mailto:ahnnalisejennings@gmail.com)





## Wesley Fellowship

Emma Johnston, President



Wesley Fellowship organizes and plans fun fellowship events to bring the ministry of play into our hectic lives. We include faculty, staff, students, and their families into our events. And on Wednesdays we wear purple. #WF2k15

Meetings are held every other Tuesday from 5:00pm to 6:30pm in Bess Jones beginning September 8th.

For more information, contact [wtsfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:wtsfellowship@gmail.com)



Wesley Fellowship

## Literally Active

Literally Active is a student group that participates and supports each other in physically active pursuits. We have run together and hiked together as well as played and watched group sports together. If you like to run, play tennis, hike, yoga, etc, find us on Facebook or around campus!



Literally Active

## Student Council



True discipleship does not lend itself to doing nothing. In recent years, Student Council has brought focus to issues that affect the lives of students and staff, and they are no less dedicated to being a compassionately constructive force on campus and in the world this year as well. The first few weeks of class will be a busy time of holding elections for the contingent of first-year students who will round out this year's representatives and listening to the community to identify what goals will be pursued in the coming months.

To learn more about Student Council, visit their webpage at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/CommunityLife/WesleyStudent-Council> or send your questions or ideas to [studentcouncil@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:studentcouncil@wesleyseminary.edu).

Ellen LaCroix Fillette, President  
Yvonne Agduyeng, Vice President  
Kipp Nelson, Treasurer  
Miracle Worrell, Secretary

## Faith and Politics

Christopher Stewart,  
President



The Faith & Politics Society seeks to address theological and political questions of humanity both theoretically and practically by reviewing policies, hearing the diverse voices of those who are affected, and addressing concerns that arise in our communities and abroad.

The first meeting will be held Thursday, September 17 in room K105 from 5pm to 6pm.

For more information, contact [stewartchris8@aol.com](mailto:stewartchris8@aol.com) OR 202.744.6853

By Leigh Finnegan

An important aspect of discipleship is service. This month's service spotlight is on Campus Kitchen, a ministry of the Metropolitan Church community which distributes meals to veterans, youth, and elderly at-risk individuals. This once small feeding program now depends on the help of student leaders and community volunteers to produce 1,800 meals a month in its commercial-grade kitchen.

Much of the food used to make these meals is recovered from Mom's Organic Market, Chipolte, and farmers' markets across the DC metro area. By identifying and recovering food that otherwise would have been wasted and turning it into nutritious meals, Campus Kitchen DC aims to use food as a tool to promote individual health and community development as well as to reverse the effects of racial, environmental, and economic injustice.

Campus Kitchen DC also offers students from American University, George Washington, and Georgetown the opportunity to gain experience in non-profit management. The application of what they have learned in the classroom about business, public relations, and development have served to increase Campus Kitchen's operational effectiveness. Meanwhile, seminary students find meaningful ways to impact the community while participating in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship.

Consider joining the efforts of this ministry by becoming part of a food recovery team or by helping cook meals for distribution. To find out more about Campus Kitchen DC or to sign up as a volunteer, visit: [www.nationalchurch.org/Serving/Campus\\_Kitchen](http://www.nationalchurch.org/Serving/Campus_Kitchen).

## Disciples in Service



## Disciples in Community

By Theresa Eggleston

"Why would you want to live with people you don't even know for a whole week?" That was the question my sister asked me almost 10 years ago when I went to summer camp for the first time. She had a good point. As a shy kid who didn't speak up much, why would I want to live with strangers for a whole week? People from church said it would be fun. My mom encouraged me. I'm pretty sure they were all hoping I would break out of my shell a little and talk to somebody on my own terms.

Little did they know they had opened a whole new world to me. Since my first week at summer camp, I had been itching to live in community. From dorm life to summer jobs as a college intern, I wanted more of what that first week at summer camp had to offer: fellowship, camaraderie, and lasting friendships.

When I was accepted to Wesley a year ago, my husband and I had

the option of living in Carroll Hall or finding our own apartment in DC. Being a couple who met in the loving arms of intentional community during summer camp, we turned to the Birch Intentional Community downtown.

This isn't the same as communities I had lived in before, but it is just as impactful and life-changing. Living in this community helps me be aware of God's molding hands. It teaches me about my best side

- and my worst. Living with one another intentionally opens my eyes to how my personality affects others, while at the same time, learning about others' personalities. Living in community gives me the unique chance to hear how God is writing a story with someone's life.

I am excited about this challenging, but life-altering, experience with a new group this Fall and all that comes with it: coming together in fellowship, loving, crying, being broken, being whole, and being fully human with one another in the presence of God. But the best part is the transformation that comes from living with strangers who, after a whole year, don't become just friends, but family.





## Disciples Go Downtown

By Joshua Gribbin

Learning does not stop at the edge of Wesley's uptown campus on Massachusetts Ave. An unknown number of opportunities to grow, to serve, and to explore exist just within the DC Metro area, and having a handle on how to get around can open new horizons. (It can also be extremely useful in getting to those classes held at Wesley Downtown!)

In this edition, we offer some tips on how to use the mass transit system (known as "the Metro" here in DC), which provides a safe and inexpensive way to travel locally. Below are some basic points to get you started, then get out there! And reach out to your peers on campus with questions about getting around. Many are seasoned DC commuters.

The Metro system consists of both trains (or subway) and buses, but in local parlance it's all "the Metro."

### Trains

Though there are multiple rail lines, you will find the Red Line your primary travel route to and from the Massachusetts Avenue campus. Wesley students can pick up the free American University shuttle bus (either red or blue) to the Tenleytown station at the stop located just inside AU's main gates. (When returning from your latest adventure, the blue AU shuttle will return you to the art building across the street from the main gates.)

Don't want to look like a tourist? Remember the mantra "walk on the left, stand on the right" when it comes to using escalators in DC. Nothing gets tempers flaring faster than someone who doesn't abide by this local standard of courtesy.

Each station is equipped with a map of the rail system, which also details how much the fare is to ride the Metro to another station, as well as machines for purchasing fare cards and/or for adding money to a

fare card. Feel free to ask a station attendant for help on how to operate the machines - that's why they are there, and they'll often provide great advice on what type of fare card will work best for you. (Hint: If you're living on campus and going downtown regularly, you'll probably want to make the small investment in a SmarTrip® card.) You will pass your fare card through a machine at the beginning of your trip to get onto the platform and again when you leave the station after you have reached your destination.

Another hint: look at the map to find the station to which you are traveling and then figure out the name of the station at the end of the line. This will be a huge help when determining which platform you need to be on to catch the train going in the right direction toward your destination. For example, students traveling to classes at Mt. Vernon UMC will disembark at the Gallery Place/Chinatown station, so you'll want to take the train heading toward Glenmont.

Lights embedded in the pavement near the edge of the platform will blink to signal that a train is arriving. When the train has come to a stop, wait until all the passengers have gotten off before pushing your way onto the train. Again, like the escalator, this is a local standard of courtesy - even though it can be difficult to follow during rush hours.

Hint: Because your fare card is needed both to enter the platform at your starting point and to exit the station at your destination, it is best to keep it in a safe but convenient place where it is easily accessible.

### To Reach Wesley Downtown by Train

Upon reaching the Gallery Place/Chinatown station, get off the train, go up the escalators, and use your fare card to get through the turnstile to exit the station. Once out on the sidewalk, turn north to walk .42 mi to 900 Massachusetts Avenue. This is the only accessible entrance

to the downtown campus building and press the call button to the left of the double doors to gain access.

### Buses

Two bus lines (N4 and N6) make stops on Massachusetts Avenue in front of the Trott Building, as well as at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and University Avenue. Both of these buses will stop at Farragut Square for those who are heading to the Wesley Downtown campus. Bus operators do not carry money, so you will either need to have the exact fare in cash (\$1.75) or use a SmarTrip® card.

### To Reach Wesley Downtown by Bus

Upon reaching the stop at Farragut Square, walk across the square to the line of buses near K and 17th Streets. Take the free Circulator bus (though free you will still need to show your Metro fare card) labeled "Union Station." Disembark at the stop in front of Potbelly Sandwich Shop at K and 11th Streets. Then walk toward 10th Street, where you will make a right to get to the front of the building on Massachusetts Avenue.

### Some Last Words of Advice

Metro's website ([www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)) as well as Google Maps can both be useful for planning your trip and determining approximately how long it will take to get there. Give yourself at least a 10-minute buffer for unforeseen delays. Finally, pack light! Buses and trains can become overcrowded, and they tend to be hot the majority of the year (late spring through fall).

Now get out there and use these tips to explore all the opportunities



## One Disciple's Journey

By Denise Haskins

Some experience a call to vocational ministry as a flash of insight or understanding (think Paul on the way to Damascus), but for some the path to their calling is more of a journey that brings them to the place they were always intended to be but never realized before they arrived.

God led Sondra Ely Wheeler on a path to her current position as a Christian ethicist that she never predicted would include serving as the Martha Ashby Carr Professor of Christian Ethics at Wesley nor participating in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Human Genome, an initiative of the National Institutes of Health.

She converted to Christianity when she was 16 years old and fell in love with the Scriptures, but her career plans did not include vocational ministry. At the end of her junior year at Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) studying for a degree in clinical psychology, she married and took a year off to work with autistic adolescents at a state psychiatric facility. This experience undermined her idea of the neutrality of psychiatry and proved to her that there were limits to the care institutions could provide for people and were more often used to keep "inconvenient" people out of the way.

After returning to school, she completed her degree and became certified to teach English and history. She taught emotionally disturbed adolescents at a private psychiatric facility, before eventually staying home in order to focus on caring for her growing family (two children and her father-in-law) while her husband continued his schooling, first at Union Theological Seminary and then at Yale.

While living in New Haven, she began taking classes at the divinity school as a special student. Wheeler's primary interest was what would life look like if people took faith and Scripture seriously. She eventually applied for the M.A. program to take advantage of financial aid and then for the doctoral program because she hadn't yet found the answers to her questions. Her experience at Yale brought her into a sphere of learning that included professors she still holds with great regard. With those professors as examples to which she would aspire, Wheeler moved to Pittsburgh where she taught Christian Ethics at Duquesne University. She had only been there for one year when her friend and former classmate Kendall Soulen reached out to her about an opening at Wesley. Having just moved, Wheeler was not particularly interested, but agreed to submit her CV to Dean Doug Meeks just to get him off the phone (she had only been at home to receive his call because her one-year-old was suffering from an ear infection).

There's nothing more fun than an interview for a job you don't want," Wheeler recalls. She made the trip to D.C. with no intention of taking the position if it was offered, but found the deciding factor in an interview before a panel of students. "It was the only time I had ever been asked, 'Who is Jesus to you?'"

Since coming to Wesley, she has been helping future leaders understand their role as functioning ethicists and the purpose of the church as a community for moral formation and discourse. As she puts it, "if you can't tell the difference between us and the Rotary Club, why come?" However, she also points out that ethics is not limited to formal education, and is

found in not only our preaching and teaching but also how we administer the church and the nature of our conversation. "It is what we do." Church is a place where we love God with our minds, and part of that is knowing how to discern what is of God. It's not just a baptism of our bodies but also a baptism of our minds - a vocation of all baptized people, not just those who go into professional ministry.

The future ahead is bright. She has plans to write or to collaborate on at least two more books. She has her continued work with the faculty and students here at Wesley. And once retired, she looks forward to traveling somewhere not related to work with her husband - the British Isles, Sienna, and somewhere in Spain. Then there will be more time to spend with her children and grandchildren and once more enjoy hobbies, like playing the clarinet and riding bike long-distance.

Wherever she goes and whatever she does, her journey with God will continue to take her exactly where she is meant to be.



**Monica Petty, Director of Housing**

I love my hometown (Kansas City, MO) and will find ways to brag on it in conversation. I enjoy studying how pop culture intersects with social issues and reflects the time period.

My favorite museums are the Museum of American History (DC) and the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (Kansas City).

My favorite television show is Scandal.

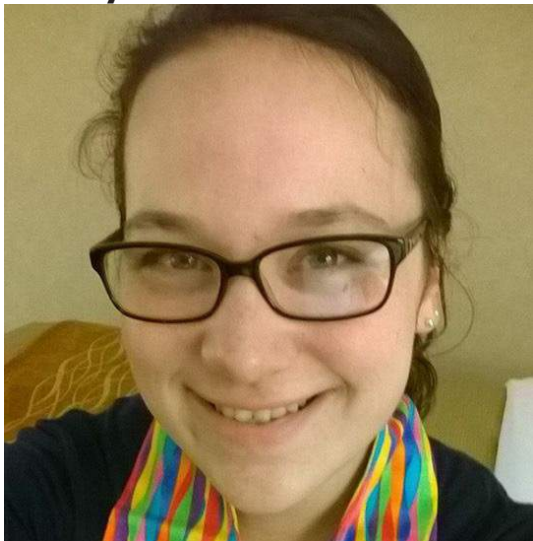
I look forward to meeting the residents and staff here at Wesley!



## Disciples Overseas

Seminary classes can be tough enough all on their own, so why make them any more complicated or confusing? Imagine trying to read the assigned texts or to listen to the professor lecture in a foreign language. For some, the additional challenges of language and culture contribute another dynamic to their theological education.

### Ashley



Ashley Roth (M.Div., year 3) chose to spend this semester studying at Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen (Reutlingen School of Theology) in Germany after learning that she was not eligible to apply for the new exchange program being offered at Cambridge. Below she describes the journey that led her to board a plane for Europe earlier this month.

I was not eligible for the Cambridge program because I was going into my last year of seminary, and I remember feeling pretty disappointed about this. There was this nagging feeling in the pit of my stomach to keep asking questions about opportunities like this that might fit into my schedule as a third year student.

The Registrar's Office proved to be a great source of information about opportunities to study abroad, including the program at Reutlingen. I was reminded of the amazing students who join us in the Fall from Germany and was told that it is an exchange program not often taken by Wesley students because of the German language requirement.

I often found it hard to explain to people why I want to spend most of my last year in school overseas, especially while trying to relearn and master a language I have not touched since high school in preparation.

That nudge I mentioned earlier never left me. I came to acknowledge this as the pull of the Holy Spirit. So I go to encounter theology through the eyes of others; I go to grow and experience the world. But the main reason I go is because I know I am called to.

While at Reutlingen I will take a cultural immersion and language course for the first six weeks at their sister institution before starting a full course load in German at the seminary. I will take advantage of the opportunity to travel as much as time and funds allow.

I am blessed to have amazing support from many offices at Wesley as this is too large an endeavor to try to do alone. And though I will also be studying with a friend whom I met when he was a part of our community in fall of 2013 as an exchange student [Damian Caruthers], I know that no amount of planning or preparation will be sufficient for the journey ahead, so I trust God will grace me with an open heart and a renewed spirit.

### Suka



Suka Joshua (M.A., year 1) traveled solo from her home in India to study for a Master of Arts degree here at Wesley Theological Seminary with the encouragement of Dr. Sathinathan Clarke who had visited Lady Doak College where Suka teaches English and serves as college chaplain. Below she shares the experiences that brought her to us this year.

I don't have any formal theological education, and my college has been encouraging me to get that education. The online offerings in India were limited and would have taken a long time in order to complete a Master's degree.

In November 2013 Dr. Clarke visited our college as a resource person. Following a talk I gave during his visit, he asked me if I was theologically qualified, and when I had to admit that I was not, he encouraged me to come study at Wesley. It was not until I met him again in September 2014 at a chaplains conference in Seoul that he asked me about my application, and I finally took the steps to come to Wesley.

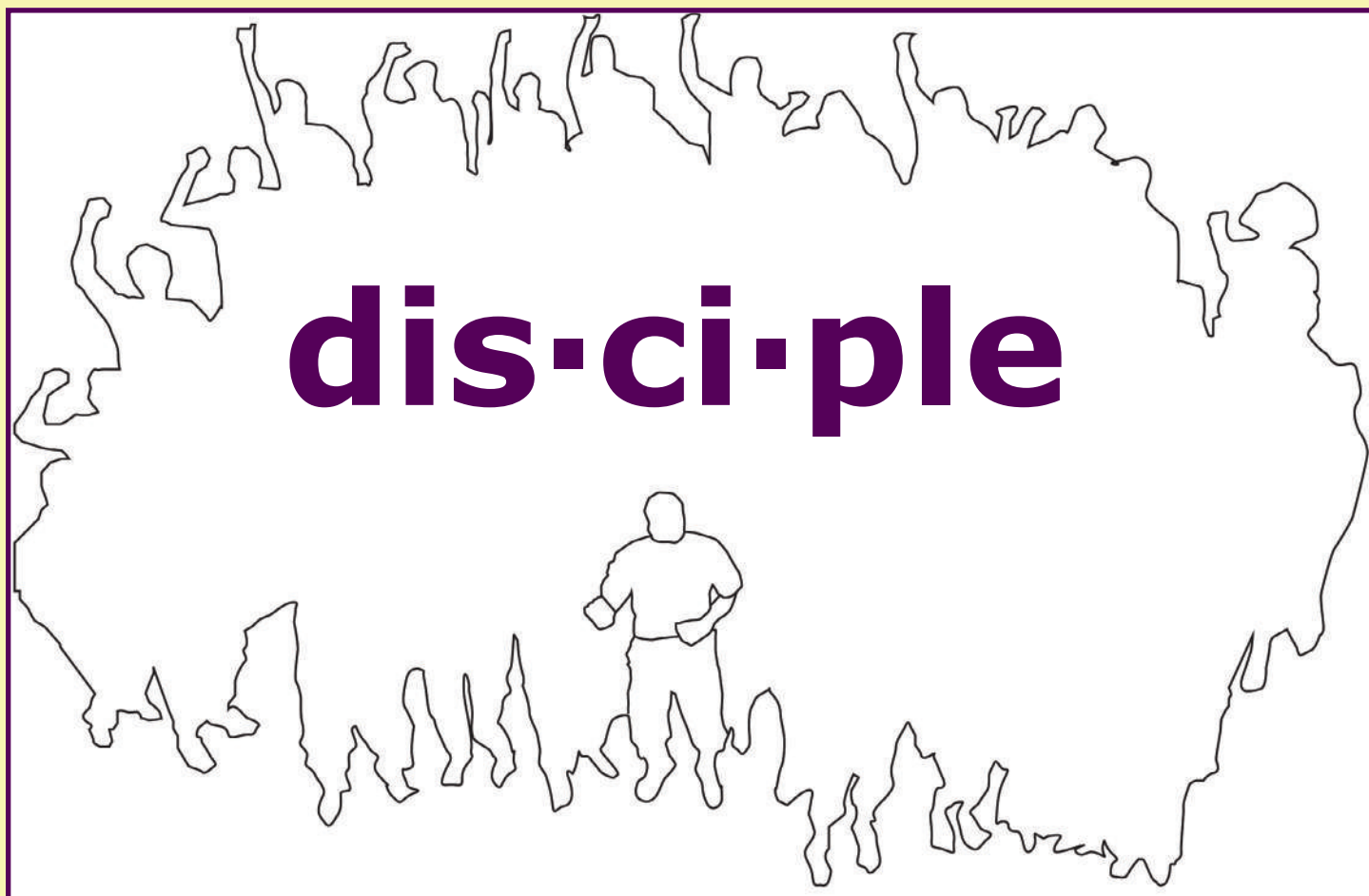
I started my education by taking two courses online. I realized during those classes that this degree would offer more than just book knowledge and would require me to think critically and analyze what I learn, which was a very practical application from most education in India.

For example, I found I could draw an analogy between what I was learning in Dr. Clarke's class about the Dalit caste and discrimination against African Americans as described in literature, which was a subject I was teaching my students. The best part was synthesizing how the church can help or propagate these social ills.

I also took a class on church and young adults. I found that while the text focused on the problems of children in Western societies, there was a lot of applicability to adolescents I know - my own children and my students - especially in this age of globalization. It was very helpful to me in how to use the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ into their lives.

I look forward to making friends of other students here at Wesley, especially to help me learn how to navigate life in the US on my own.

The Registrar's Office can help you plan your own study abroad opportunity - whether it be to Reutlingen or Cambridge or another location around the globe! Their office, located in room 104 of the Trott Building, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 12noon and again in the afternoon between 1pm and 4:30pm.



The noun disciple comes from the Latin word *discipulus*, which means “student, learner, or follower.” One of the earliest places disciple showed up was in the Bible, where it means “a follower of Jesus,” sometimes specifically one of the twelve apostles. It’s still used that way in religious speech and writing, but it can also describe a serious, dedicated follower or student of a teacher or leader. In this edition of the *Wesley Journal*, we explore what being a disciple means to the members of the Wesley community.



Like us on Facebook

Printed on recycled paper 