Commuters
by Alexandra Elwell

Did you know that a large majority of the Wesley Community is made up of commuter students? Did you know that commuter students are however, encouraged and welcomed at every Wesley event? Perhaps, if you are a commuter student you are not aware of some of the services Wesley provides just for you, such as getting a locker.

There is a locker room in KG-12 right across from the Lewis Center for Leadership. You may sign up for your locker at the Office for Community Life. There is also, a lounge located next door to KG-01 in the glass room with the vending machines.

A final suggestion is that you join a club. Like Wesley Facebook groups and see what events are available on campus. There is so much to do with different clubs and organizations that are open to the whole community. In fact, many of the events on campus are even family friendly. Let’s make this year a great year!

Gallery Exhibit

by Samuel Williams

“Suffragettes: Votes, Violence, Victory,” a new arts exhibit at the Dadian Gallery located on the third floor of the Kresege Building will open Monday, October 19. Featuring the work of guest curator Cecilia Rossey, the exhibit will remain on display through December 18. A reception and artist talk about the exhibit will be held on Thursday, November 5 from 4 – 5 p.m.

According to Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Biblical Theory, the exhibition will be the third conducted by artist and printmaker Rossey. “We are pleased to have Cecilia Rossey back for another exhibition but we are urging students to visit the show because it brings home the history of the suffrage movement that was key to women earning their right to vote in America.” This exhibition is significant since it highlights artistic tributes to a women’s movement that culminated on March 3, 1913, when the Women’s Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C., garnered significant attention for the suffrage movement that would eventually see the successful passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. “Votes, Violence, Victory” celebrates the suffragettes and pays homage to women for their enduring fight for gender equality.

“As an artist, I accept the many gifts that are given to me as a printmaker: forms, colors, and shapes. I play with them, change and arrange them and delight at the conversation between paper, plate and ink. My cast of characters appears in various forms: Eve in the Brancaccio Chapel, Florence, Italy, or a lone tree on the side of a Tuscan road. My art and the disciplines I have learned evolve from the many journeys made through countries, cultures, and family,” Rossey said.

“Suffragettes: Votes, Violence, Victory” brings together 19 works by 12 artists, all of which deal with women’s efforts to gain equal rights and political representation. Rossey organized the show to commemorate last year’s 100th anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Procession, a mass demonstration in Washington. Rossey will also contributed two pieces to the show.

For more information visit http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/lcar or contact Amy Gray at (202) 885-8637.
Pope Francis

I was fortunate enough to attend the telecast of the address to Congress that Pope Francis was invited to give, in which he addressed major religious issues that cross the political and spiritual realm. Within this experience, I was reminded of a major facet of our work within the world and how transformation can come.

Within a few hours of waiting at security, I was fortunate enough to acquire a prime front row space on the west lawn. I had expected to be a Methodist within a sea of Catholic followers. However, the multitude of people around me proved to be diverse in background, religious identity, and intention for being there. Once the media arrived, I overheard a variety of stories of why people had come to witness and support the Pope as he addressed Congress.

Once his address began, the audience stood transfixed by every word that he spoke within the Capitol building. The masses who walked in early and bled their presence that you may have seen on television. The polite clapping of the congressmen was completely opposite the energy and exuberance that the audience had with his every word of historical justice, dutiful hits of struggle, and wise reminders of hope. For me, the fundamental moment was the blessing of the people held after the speech. Pope Francis came out on the west lawn balcony to pray and to bless the people who came to listen to his words. The Pontiff prayed for reconciliation of the oppressed within our world, while also seeing hope within the brave saints of our country. Pope Francis ended his prayer with an address to the unchurched of our country. Pope Francis ended his address with a prayer for the marginalized and oppressed. He spoke of the sanctity of life and of the need for immigration reform. It was clear that Francis wasn’t concerned with being politically correct, he was here to speak truth, to encourage and to build up our nation, and by the end of his short speech, all who stood on the lawn felt a palpable sense of conviction. ‘I would like all men and women of good will in this great nation to support the efforts of the international community to protect the vulnerable in our world’, Francis said, ‘and to stimulate integral and inclusive models of development, so that our brothers and sisters everywhere may know the blessings of peace and prosperity which God wills for all his children.’ As Francis waved from the balcony of the White House before heading to a private meeting with President Obama, I knew the days that followed would be of great significance in our nation’s history. And we saw as Francis traveled to Congress, then to New York, and on to Philadelphia, he did not disappoint. A prophet was truly among us. May we all heed the words that the Spirit has spoken to our nation through Francis, because if we do, we will experience a little more of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

At the White House
by Brandon Robertson

At 4:00 AM, I made my way down 14th Street, walking briskly. The streets were beginning to fill with a palpable energy and excitement of hundreds of thousands of people. Each year on Inauguration Day, a different experience began the journey with me downtown. Pope Francis, the most popular pontiff in recent history, was in town and had come to bring what was expected to be a prophetic message to the most powerful nation on the planet. I had the great honor of receiving an invitation to attend the official state arrival ceremony of Pope Francis on the South Lawn of the White House, along with 15,000 other activists, religious leaders, and politicians. As I made my way through the massive lines to get through security, I entered the White House complex and was enraptured by the vibrancy of thousands who had already gathered, awaiting Pope Francis to make his remarks nearly four hours later. I stood with a group of Christian businesswomen who talked for the whole four hours, contemplating the life and message of Pope Francis. And as I stood on the lawn gazing at the beautiful and historic mansion, tears began to flow down my face, as I was overwhelmed with emotion. Never did I think that I, an evangelical Protestant, would be this excited to see the Pope. But Pope Francis isn’t just any Pope. He is a man, who, despite some traditional beliefs regarding marriage and sexuality, embodies the way of Jesus in a way that few in his position have ever done. He is a man who has continually spoken sharply, and yet with compassion, against the sins of our generation, cutting through our greed and hunger for power and image, and demonstrating a more abundant way. Francis really does love up to his title, Victoria of Christ, which literally means Christ’s representative on earth.

I was shaken from my emotional daze by the sound of the military trumpets announcing the arrival of the President and First Lady, and moments later, Pope Francis arrived on the platform to roaring cheers from the nearly 15,000 others on the lawn. Francis’ first words to the American people were filled with calls to inclusion and care for the marginalized and oppressed. He spoke of the sanctity of life and of the need for immigration reform. It was clear that Francis wasn’t concerned with being politically correct, he was here to speak truth, to encourage and to build up our nation, and by the end of his short speech, all who stood on the lawn felt a palpable sense of conviction. ‘I would like all men and women of good will in this great nation to support the efforts of the international community to protect the vulnerable in our world’, Francis said, ‘and to stimulate integral and inclusive models of development, so that our brothers and sisters everywhere may know the blessings of peace and prosperity which God wills for all his children.’ As Francis waved from the balcony of the White House before heading to a private meeting with President Obama, I knew the days that followed would be of great significance in our nation’s history. And we saw as Francis traveled to Congress, then to New York, and on to Philadelphia, he did not disappoint. A prophet was truly among us. May we all heed the words that the Spirit has spoken to our nation through Francis, because if we do, we will experience a little more of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

At the Capitol
by Patrick Buhrman

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There was more than just a sweet hour of prayer lifted up in The Sweetest Place on Earth® October 2-4 as over 700 representatives came from across the UMC’s Northeastern Jurisdiction for a conference on Transformational Leadership in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Wesley Seminary was well-represented by a group of current students as well as alumni serving in pastoral or connectional leadership for their respective Annual Conferences.

Organized around the theme “SeeKnow-Love,” plenary speakers addressed the crowd about their own experiences in working to further the cause of Christ by being and/or developing leaders, while at the same time acknowledging that true transformation is accomplished by God alone. Fiona Haworth shared her challenges in helping her employer, Interstate Battery, live up to its corporate vision which begins with “To glorify God.” Nadia Bolz-Weber, an ELCA pastor and author of Accidental Saints, forged ahead despite travel difficulties and a raging cold to describe the importance of being vulnerable and authentic to connect with others so all can see Jesus. The leadership team from The Chapel, a UMC congregation in Brunswick, Georgia, outlined a disciple-building process that they have implemented and used in their locations to move from a culture where membership has become a spectator sport to an atmosphere where partners are invested in the ministry and mission of the larger community. Following each presenter, Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, reviewed the topic from a theological perspective, calling those in attendance to mindful of our role as sentinels for the church.

In addition to the large-group sessions, multiple break-outs designed to serve as practicums offered more specific information on topics related to leadership, evangelism, education, as well as other themes. However, the overall benefit of the conference extended well beyond the schedule and structure of the event.

Ian Urriola (M.Div., Year 2) remarked that “seeing so many of my Wesley peers in the ‘real world’ outside of the classroom reinforced how wonderful our connectional system is. Knowing that my classmates will be my partners in ministry in the NEJ gives me hope for both our Jurisdiction and for the United Methodist Church overall.” Theresa Eggleston (M.A., Year 2) added, “It was good to engage and make connections with young adults within our jurisdiction.” Both students attended as representatives of the Upper New York Annual Conference.