

## **Student Ministry at Wesley Memorial Church, High Point, NC**

Our student ministry is open to any student, as well as their friends, in grades 6-12. We also have opportunities for young adults ages 18-25. We love seeing new faces and meeting new friends! We offer events at church and off-campus for all ages, Sunday through Wednesday each week, as well as weekend retreats and camps. Our hope is that every person walks away from us encouraged, hopeful, motivated and on FIRE for JESUS! We are a Bible-believing, God-fearing, Spirit-filled group that loves “stacking the stands” for students and walking alongside their journey with Jesus!

Our goal is to take each opportunity to connect with students and welcome them into the Kingdom of God. Each week, we typically offer 6-8 events for various ages. During these times together we are intentional to let the Bible minister to our hearts and making it a priority to pray with and for each other. Another goal of our ministry is to come alongside students and families to support them in their callings and passions through cheering for them at extracurricular activities as well as walking alongside them during the ups and downs of life.

We are fortunate to have a strong student ministry adult team. Our team consists of 7 adults, and 2 high school students that collaborate with the director and church liaison. This team has been faithful, steady, and supportive! This team has served as a modern witness for the words found in Matthew 23:11-12, “The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Throughout the year we use various resources ranging from the Bible, FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and other Bible centered devotional materials to supplement our teaching. We utilize these for our weekly devotions, small group studies and other speaking engagements to different groups in middle, high school, and young adults. We encourage Bible reading inside and outside of our time together. Whether it be taking the challenge to read a Proverb a day to start off the new year or utilizing the Daily Audio Bible, we believe that only reading the Bible in church or school will not be enough to sustain these young followers of Jesus in our world today. Romans 12:2 says, “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” We desire for each student we encounter to know that being a Christian goes beyond a title, it is a lifestyle. We are called to be more than fans of Jesus, we are called to be followers of Jesus!

We have been blessed to have many interns and young adults who partnered with us in ministry throughout the years. We have enjoyed 5 student interns since 2018 who shared their speaking, worship, and serving gifts with us. We have many young adults who come for basketball and YAM (Young Adult Ministry) Sessions. Currently, we have 5 young adults who help with Bible studies, middle school, and young adult ministry opportunities. It has been a great privilege to witness as the Gospel takes root in the hearts of our students that grow up and then want to partner with our ministry to give back as young adult volunteers.

Students are first introduced to our student ministry through our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Party. We have established many lasting relationships with not only students whose families attend our church, but also many that have been first time guests that are now active participants in our student ministries’ weekly events! Our church has generously provided a safe space that students are proud of, excited to come to, and consistently bring their friends for all the fun. Though this may seem like a small thing, we count it a great blessing because it provides more opportunities to share the saving power of our God!

The New Testament model of ministry over breaking bread together is just as impactful to our student ministry today as it was then. The impact of feeding students physically and spiritually cannot be underestimated! We consistently offer snacks, meals, drinks, and dessert each time we gather. This creates organic conversations and connections around a table that aid in building comradery and trust as many students understand they are not alone in trying to walk out their faith.

Our student ministry has various speakers and teachers at each event. Much like life, we have experienced seasons where our teaching emphasis is led through students, while other times the Lord brings young adults or more seasoned individuals to share their story how God is at work. Regardless, the goal of our ministry is to always remember that God is at work, and we want to partner with God's heart in how to reach students with His great love.

This is a glimpse of the ministry models and visions we have used since 2016. Our priority is to always partner with God's heart in reaching students with the good news of the Gospel in how we love, come alongside student's lives, and their walk with Jesus. We remain intentional with the authority of the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and the incredible example of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Much Love,

Steven M. Nelson  
Director of Student Ministries  
2 Corinthians 5:17

**Student Ministry Adult Team:**

Tom Smothers (chair)  
Barry Cheek  
Robert Yates  
Ken Marsh  
Jacob Kohns  
Debra Jones  
Tracy Briggs

**Student Representatives:**

Georgia Dorn  
Lyla Dorn

**Church Liaison:**

Dan Smoak

## **Below is a sample of some of our events we have offered:**

- Sunday Morning Live
- Middle School Midweek Motivation
- Middle School Mountain Trips
- Middle School Bible Studies (guys and girls)
- High School Bible Studies (guys and girls)
- High School Hangouts/Lunches
- High School Serving Opportunities
- Young Adult Summer Bible Studies
- Young Adult Retreats
- YAM (Young Adult Ministry) Sessions
- Ball and Bible (basketball outreach) Ministry
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Party
- Flight for Christ Confirmation
- Confirmation Retreats
- Confirmation Sunday
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Journey On
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Edge of Adventure
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration Dinners
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreats
- Alpha Omega Sunday
- High School Serving Opportunities
- Chicken N' Fixins Fundraiser
- Ping Pong/Corn-Hole/Spike-Ball Tournaments
- Bowling/Laser Tag Nights
- 7 Summer Nights
- Summer Cookouts/Fire Pit
- Summer Camps
- VBS Volunteer Lunches
- VBS Serving Opportunities
- Church Lock-ins
- Worship Nights
- Mountain Trips
- Mission Trips
- Beach Trips
- Cabin Retreats