



GATOR WESLEY is for life!

Dear Gator Wesley:

As I read your invitation for Foundation alumni to respond, I am reminded that tomorrow is our sixty first wedding anniversary (Actually, I was reminded before now but it sounds good to say it that way.) I was one of the four upper room boys when a girl from Palatka, Emily, began attending the Foundation. To make a long story short, we met and got married in her home church on December 24th, 1950, by Thaxton Springfield, the Director at that time.

Our lives were deeply influenced by Thaxton (I became a minister as a result of his influence) and all the people there—young and old. That influence has never ceased, only grown. We left there with friends who have been with us for a lifetime.

Looking back on sixty one years of marriage inevitably leads us to the Foundation where we met, where we found our life's direction, and where we became part of the finest group of people one would ever want to know.

Tomorrow, as we give God thanks for our life together, we shall also give thanks for the place we met and the people we met there.

Sincerely,
Gene and Emily Ann Zimmerman, 12/23/11

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www.GatorWesley.com | 352.372.8183
PO Box 13434, Gainesville, FL 32604



Dear Gator Wesley:

Mary and I celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary December 27, 2011. We worked together on the homecoming display in front of the Foundation in October 1949. While working together we found out neither had a date for the Gator Growl or the game with Georgia Tech, so I asked her and she said yes.

That began our dating, which continues to this day. I was a senior, she a junior. I went on to Emory, Candler and we were married in 1951. We served in the Florida Conference for 40 years and after retirement, we served our Florida United Methodist Children's Home for 19 more years. I finally retired again last June at age 82.

The Foundation was a great place to grow spiritually and to meet wonderful friends, friends we still have over these 62+ years.

Blessings and peace to all,
Les and Mary (Mary Kooker and Leslie E. Rabb), 12/24/11

Our Vision "A new generation of college students boldly committed to Jesus Christ and characterized by their passionate worship of God, holiness of heart and life, and courageous witness in the world through mission and evangelism."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2011!

The Gator Wesley Foundation depends upon alumni and friends for much of its financial support. We set an ambitious goal of \$100,000 this year. We would like to recognize the donors who have supported this ministry in 2011:

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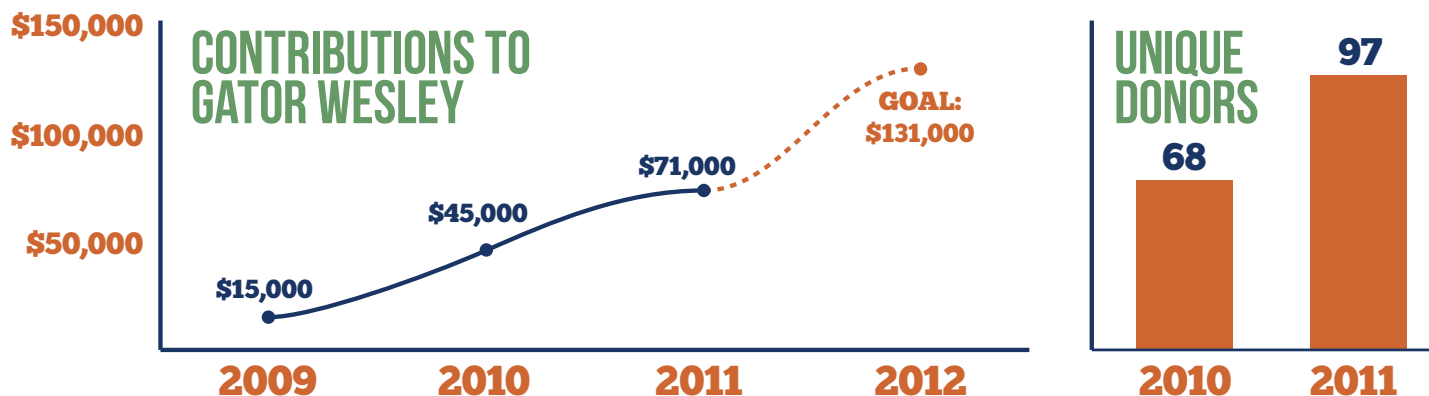
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As you can see in this newsletter, the support for Gator Wesley is growing. We are excited that 2011 saw an increase in donations received from \$45,000 to \$71,000 (up 57%) as well as an increase in the number of donors from 68 to 97 (up 43%). We especially want to celebrate the success of the Twelve Days of Christmas campaign. We entered the month of December with a goal of raising \$12,000 and the final figures show we received \$20,000 last month. To everyone who responded to that campaign, **THANK YOU**. Those donations helped us end 2011 with a nearly balanced budget! We are humbled by everyone's on-going support of this ministry.



As we turn our attention to 2012 there are new challenges. While our 2012 budget has a modest \$8,000 increase from 2011 we are anticipating receiving 20% less from the Florida Conference. That means we have increased our fund raising goal from \$100,000 to \$131,000.

2011 Funding:

\$5,000 Local Church | \$100,000 Gifts | \$115,000 Conference



2012 Funding:

\$5,000 Local Church | \$131,000 Gifts | \$92,000 Conference (20% less)



Ways to Give

As you can see above, your support in 2012 is much needed and will be greatly appreciated. There are a number of ways that you can give to Gator Wesley throughout the year. The most convenient way to give is through our Online Donation page (<http://www.gatorwesley.com/donate/>). The process is easy – you can make a one-time gift or set-up weekly/monthly automatic payments. You can also mail checks directly to the Gator Wesley Foundation, PO Box 13434, Gainesville, FL 32604. We also have a number of opportunities to make a named gift for our building and can provide assistance if you would consider making a planned or estate gift to Gator Wesley. Contact our office for more information.



Finals Days to Register! DEADLINE: February 3, 2012

The Maranatha Choir is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on February 17-19, and we invite all alumni to return for this special weekend. All former directors are returning, and we already have close to 80 people registered! The weekend features a banquet, the premier of a documentary about Maranatha Choir, and a mass choir for Sunday morning's worship service.

If you would like to join us, please head over to GatorWesley.com/Maranatha for details and to register. You can also call our office at 352-372-8183. The deadline to sign up is Friday, February 3.