

Good Morning!

My name is Matt O'Connor and I'm one of the 3 At-Large members on The Leadership Team here at John Wesley. And on the slide here you will see the names of ALL the members of the team as well as the ministry teams that they lead. And we operate under the direction of our fearless leader, Larry Ward.

Having only joined The Leadership Team in January, I have the dubious distinction of being "the New Guy" on the team. Now we all know the New Guy. That's the person who asks questions that everyone else in the room already knows the answers to. (What's a Charge Conference? What does a coffee coordinator do? Who writes up the newsletter?) The New Guy, the person who makes suggestions only to find out that those things were tried and rejected...years ago! (Who knew??)

But, as the person currently on The Leadership Team who asks the silly questions and makes the dumb suggestions, I am pleased to report this morning that I think I'm doing a terrific job of representing many of you out there who know as little, if not less, than I do about how things work around here at John Wesley. And to all of you folks like that out there this morning I say....You're welcome!

On a more serious note, one of the few benefits of being the New Guy on a committee is that you get to look at how things work through fresh eyes. And as that person on the team, I have to tell you how incredibly impressed I've been at the level of effort, dedication, skill and creativity that the members of this team bring to their work, particularly the leaders of the ministry teams. Whether it's preparing our worship services, managing the finances, providing benefits for our staff, creating fellowship, offering hospitality, maintaining our physical plant, organizing outreach opportunities, or providing spiritual growth opportunities for our youth and adults, these folks work extremely hard to give us wonderful opportunities and maintain the incredible assets we have here at John Wesley. And so, in my 4 short months on The Leadership Team, I've gained a whole new appreciation for the work that they do, much of it behind the scenes, and I feel very, very grateful.

Which brings me to my final point: As members of the John Wesley family, we pledge to Love God, Love Others and Serve the World. As with any family, each member needs to figure out how best to contribute to the family's success. The work of the ministry teams, and The Leadership Team as a whole, give us opportunities to contribute and fulfill these goals.

For those of you here who, like me, have perhaps not taken full advantage of the opportunities to grow in our faith and serve others, I encourage you in the coming months to participate in one new opportunity offered by one of the ministry teams. You'll see them advertised in the bulletin, the newsletter and in e-mails. Choose just one to attend or help out with. I believe you are certain to benefit from the experience, and it will serve to honor the incredible efforts of the ministry teams and their leaders.

Thank you!