

# STANDING IN THE GAP

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

## To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ

**ANOTHER YEAR CLOSES, BUT  
THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE  
JUST BEGINNING**



Another academic year has come to a close. It is always so encouraging to see how many lives God has been able to reach and transform through our ministries on both campuses. The amount of spiritual growth has been encouraging. We also sent off many committed seniors from both chapters who have served God faithfully through their time at Standing in the Gap. Now the opportunity to continue our commission commences:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”-Matthews 28:19-20

-Natalie Norris

# Outstanding Alumni: Ben Coughlin

By Connor Steffes

If you know Ben Coughlin, you know that when he does something, he puts in 100% effort. After all, this is the guy who drove two hours from Olivet College to Saginaw Valley State University's Gap chapter. While there he also went all out on making a prayer team, and then went on to be interim campus pastor for two years. He has lead and supported multiple small groups, and has played a massive part in discipling and helping teach many individual members.



However, this is not about what he did as a student, but rather what Ben has done as an alumni. Since stepping down as interim campus pastor, Ben has stepped up at the Church in Drive, serving the body in various Bible studies, organizing a church prayer group akin to what he established at Standing in the Gap, and has recently gotten married. That last part is especially relevant, as he and his wife have built an environment in their home that is welcoming for church and gap members, and have hosted many gatherings to help members of each bond. Furthermore, the two of them have been very involved in the lives of current Gap members, shepherding and discipling both members and leaders of Standing in the Gap from both chapters.

Whether it be because of his time in Gap, or because of the impact he's continuing to have on leaders at both chapters, a lot of the way Standing in the Gap looks now is because of Ben. God has used Ben in a multitude of ways, making him an Outstanding Alum



# Northwood Chapter Update

By Gabriel Nelson

Hey everyone! This is now my second year helping lead the Northwood University chapter of Standing in the Gap. At the student leadership retreat just before the school year started, we settled on the theme of "Biblical Literacy" as our guide for the year. To that end, we implemented a two-semester Bible reading program that would take anyone who followed it through the New Testament as well as the Psalms and Proverbs over that period of time. Simultaneously, the Wednesday night messages for each week were based on the readings for that week, allowing those who followed the Bible reading program to gain additional insight. In each message, my goal was to make the message of the book or letter the message was based on accessible to the students, who come from a wide variety of church backgrounds.

I have been consistently impressed by the learning and growth the students and student leaders have shown throughout the year. I often heard of and saw students discipling each other outside of the context of the Wednesday night meeting and small group meetings. It has also been great to see the Gap Band at the Midland Church more often. The fusion of contemporary and traditional music on Sunday mornings is emblematic of the multigenerational church that is being built up there.

Central to much of this work is Joe Rupert, who graduated last year. He chose to stay on leadership for a year as the Intern Campus Pastor, and his contributions to the leadership team and worship team, in particular, have been essential to Gap's outreach during the year.

Throughout the year, Gap put on different events, such as retreats to Camp Brethren Heights, game nights, service events, and a Thanksgiving meal for international students at Northwood, who don't have anyone to celebrate with. Because of this, Standing in the Gap was nominated for two awards by the university: Outstanding Student Organization and Most Involved Student Organization, and won the second one!

As the students return home for the summer, the Midland Church of the Brethren and the Northwood University chapter of Standing in the Gap stand well-positioned to continue doing good work through their shared ministry. Thank you all for your support and prayers!



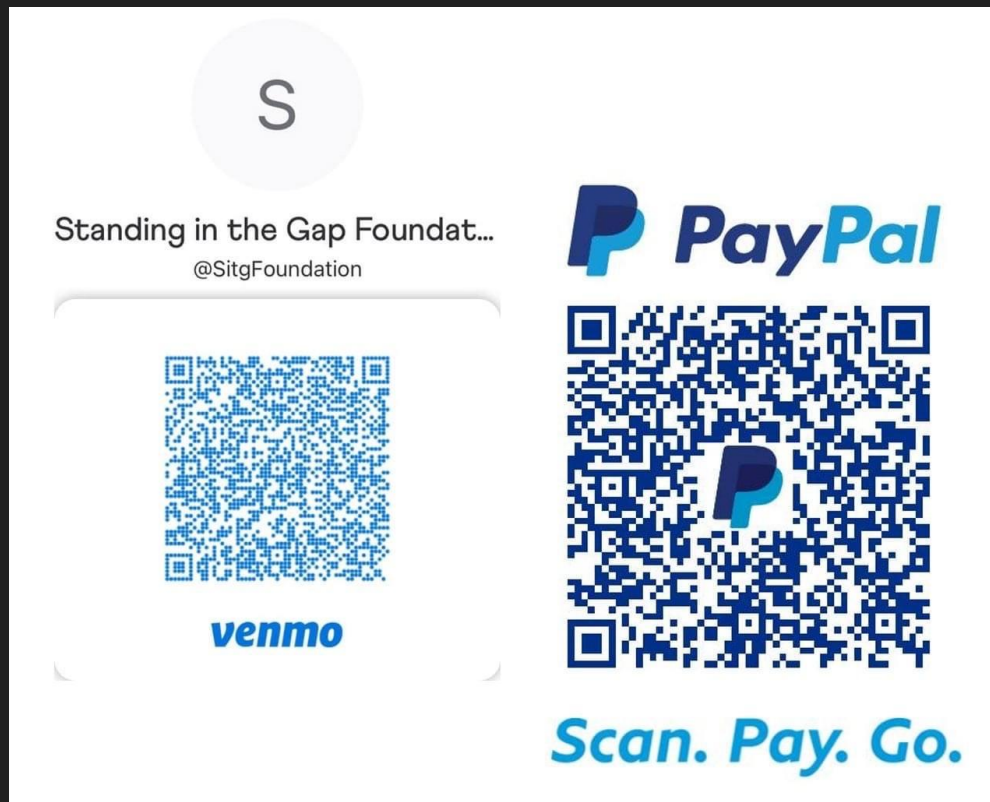


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