

STANDING IN THE GAP

NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ

STEPPING ON WITH FAITH TO CARRY US



As the academic year is over, the period of planning and preparing for the next step in our ministry is just beginning. Stepping out into what God is calling us to in the next year can be anxiety provoking. Seniors that both chapters watch grow and relied on are stepping out to build their adult lives, and the chapters are discovering what is lying ahead of them as well.

“And without faith, it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”- Hebrews 11:6

-Natalie Norris; Standing in the Gap Communications Manager

Outstanding Alumni: Hannah Balbaugh

By Ben Coughlin

Hannah and I go way back. I've known Hannah since I came to Gap in the fall of 2017. She has done a lot for GAP during her time there and continues to do so as an alumni.

A few adjectives I'd use to describe Hannah are loyal, empathetic, and hard-working. She has a lot of friends and is involved in a lot of things.

Hannah dreams bigger than most people I know and also can put in the effort to make those dreams come true. She's put in countless hours to disciple others and serve Christ both in her time at the Gap and the Church in Drive.



I can't say a bad thing about Hannah, my wife Kady agrees with me. That's probably why Kady chose to make Hannah her maid of honor at our wedding last October.

Kady knows she can always count on Hannah. She seems to have a limitless tank to draw from when doing things for others. She's always willing to pick up the phone when you need something.

We do know, however, that Hannah's tank is not limitless. It can't be easy being her. One thing I can say with utter certainty is that Hannah does not get the credit and appreciation that she deserves.

If you know Hannah, tell her how much she means to you, and if you don't know her, I recommend you get to know her, she is a top-notch child of God.



SVSU Chapter Update

By Tony Oswald

This has been an eventful semester for Standing in the GAP as we finished the winter 2023 semester. One of the largest events this semester was our Spring Retreat out at Camp Brethren Heights. The topic for the retreat was “The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis” (Storge [affection], Phila [friendship], Eros [romance], and Agape [charity]). What an amazing topic this was to cover as it truly detailed what love is and what the different types of love that we may experience are as Christians. In addition to multiple detailed sermon sessions over the four loves, the fellowship between the two chapters was long missed and greatly edifying. There were new faces from both chapters at the retreat, 3 of whom were brand new “gappers” from our chapter who had only started coming the week before the retreat. Upon going to the retreat, these new gappers had such a wonderful and transformative experience that they decided to return to our weekly meetings and interact in many of our scheduled GAP events. With everyone feeling spiritually renewed coming off the retreat, the rest of the semester continued to be a fun yet spiritually informative experience.



We had a variety of different “parties” that anyone was encouraged to come and attend. Some of these included our “St. Patrick’s Day” party in which we met at the “Guy’s House” to celebrate the occasion and enjoy fellowship with one another. Another get-together we had was one of the spontaneous game nights that we also had at the “Guy’s House”. These “parties” usually have a similar style to them so to speak, as we usually have food for people to enjoy and do a variety of different activities such as watching movies, playing games, and maybe even going somewhere to do something random. These events usually have a set start time and do not have a particular end time as people may come and go during the whole duration of the event, like a revolving door. Another major event that had a particular focus, was our tie-dye event towards the end of the semester. This consisted mostly of us tie-dyeing any clothing that we brought in unique and cool designs while we admired the beautiful weather.

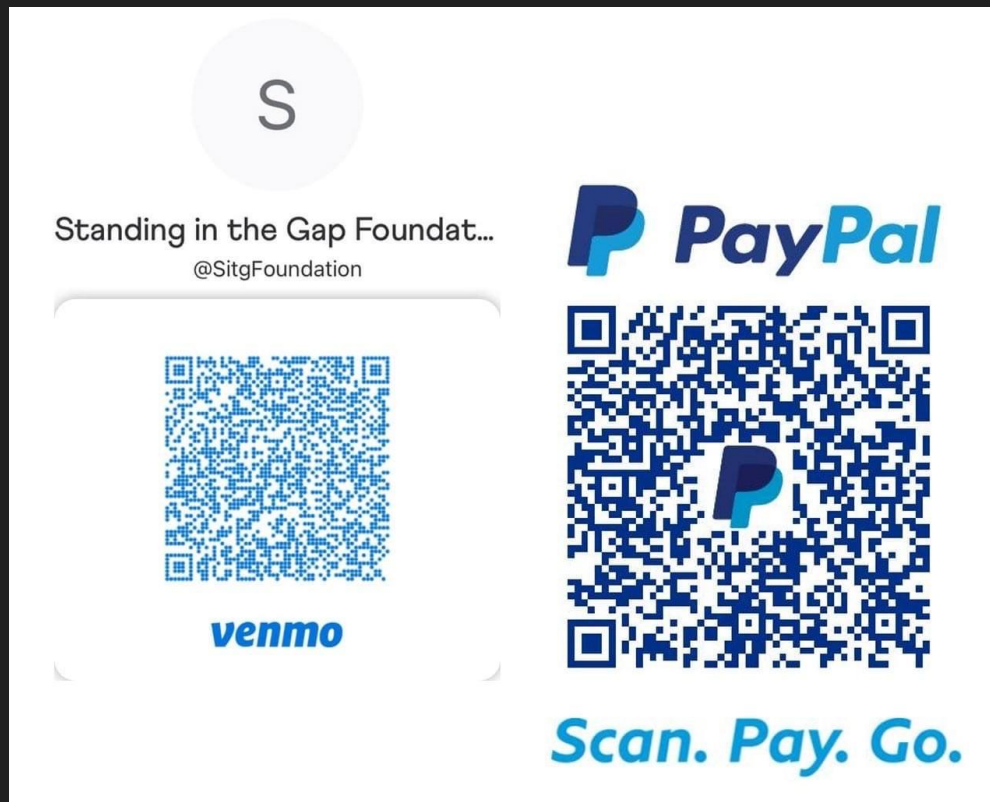
When we were not playing games at our get-togethers or having fun at our other events, GAP was going through our “How to be a better disciple” sermon series at our weekly meetings. Our pastor Nate Polzin did an amazing job preaching a bulk of the sermons this semester aimed at helping us students understand what we can do to be better disciples of Jesus Christ. But in addition to Nate’s great sermons, we had a couple of guest preachers that included Joe Rupert and Ben Coughlin. Joe being a former Northwood Gapper preached on the idea of prayer and how we can be more effective at praying by understanding what God has promised us. Ben the former intern campus pastor at our chapter preached on the major qualities exhibited by both men and women of God and what qualities of non-Christians that we should avoid having. Something cool that we did for the first time, was spice up our weekly meetings by having a glow night. We had our normal weekly meeting, but we turned off the lights and had everyone wear glowsticks and the only major form of illumination came from the projector. But these were only the highlights of the semester, there were many other awesome moments we had, and we expect to have many more as we prepare for the start of “Summer Gap”.

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