

Focus on the Foundation

Fall 2008

Volume 8 Issue 2

A Report of the United Methodist Foundation to the Wisconsin Annual Conference

Harbor House Expands its Ministry



Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner cuts the ribbon at the new Harbor House Crisis Shelter.

Congratulations to Harbor House Crisis Shelter in Superior for raising the funds needed to purchase a second apartment building for transitional living. The center provides a means for homeless women and families to move from homelessness to permanent housing. At the ribbon cutting and dedication this summer, Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner, Executive Director, said, "All the planning, working and striving for a goal has come together for a triumphant time for our community. We have gained the ability to provide more services to those in greatest need; homeless families. What a great beginning for this project!"

Harbor House- Continued on page 6

A Conversation about a Gift...

When the United Methodist Church of the Pines in Minocqua voted to build an addition onto their current building, it resulted in a lot of thought and prayer, and sparked many conversations. Let's listen in how things went recently at the Bob and Holly Nash household:

First the Joy *"Oh, boy! We're going to finally try to build an addition to the church. This will be great!"*

Then the Reality *"How are we going to plan and carry out a successful capital fund drive?"* Enter the Foundation. Their first step was to hold interviews with a number of church members. In addition to gathering information, this also raised the consciousness level of how much money each family would need to consider giving. *"I thought the Foundation did a great job at the interviews, didn't you Bob?"* *"Yes, Holly. Now we need to think and pray more about how much we should give, and how we're going to come up with the money."*

Next the Work as the Foundation helped them through the intensive phase of their Capital Campaign. *"They want us to be chairpersons of which committees?!"* *"Wow, that will be a lot of work but we both believe in the need and the cause. So I guess we can rev it up for three months to reach the goal, especially since the Foundation has such clear descriptions of what is involved."*

More Thinking and Prayer *"Bob, we need to take some time out from the work on this campaign and do some prayerful consideration of what we are going to give. We don't want to decrease what we give to the operating budget either."* *"I know what you mean Holly, but where are we going to get the money? We already tithe and you are trying to put enough aside so you can retire. What should we do?"*

Nash Conversations- Continued on page 3

Church Loan and Capital Campaign Program

Ripon Immanuel “Sees Amazing Things”

Ripon Immanuel has “seen amazing things today.” They plan to have their entry and elevator project completed by Thanksgiving. The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is pleased to have been a part of this process in a number of different ways. In September of 2007 the Foundation conducted a Pre-Campaign Evaluation Study in Ripon. A cross section from the congregation were interviewed about their opinions and attitudes around the proposed project in a Pre-Campaign Study. Based on what was heard from the interviews the Foundation was able to make several recommendations, including what was estimated to be the amount that Immanuel may be able to raise in a capital campaign.

Immanuel chose to work with the Foundation to conduct the “intensive” phase of their capital campaign. Over 110 people attended the Kickoff Event on a terribly snowy Sunday! At the Kickoff Event the folks worshiped, sang, ate and learned about the building project and the campaign to fund it.

Using the theme “So All Can Enter” folks were reminded of the story of the paralyzed man that was lowered to Jesus by his friends. After Jesus healed him, people were heard to say that “we have seen amazing things today.” As the campaign came to a close in early March, over \$337,000 had been raised in gifts and pledges toward the elevator and entry project. When combined with prior gifts and investments that had been on hand at their church over the years, \$555,000 was available for their project.

To cover the cost that was not raised, and to cover the costs of construction until the pledges are received, a loan was needed. Ripon Immanuel worked with the Foundation to secure a construction loan and closed on their loan prior to the start of their project. They will initially pay interest only on funds disbursed during the construction period. When the building project is completed, this loan will convert to a standard loan with no additional paperwork needed on behalf of the church.

INTEREST RATES FOR THE WEEK OF

September 15, 2008

5 year fixed rate: 5.00%

10 year fixed rate: 5.75%

The Foundation offers construction loans for building, remodeling or repairing. We also offer loans to refinance your current mortgage that you may have with another institution. In order to qualify for a loan through the Foundation, a church must pass our cash flow model test, and must have paid their Conference Apportionments in full for at least the last three years. Our loan interest rates are set every Tuesday and are available on our website at www.wumf.org/CongLoanProgram.htm.

If your church is thinking about raising funds for a major project, call Lenore Geisthardt, Capital Campaign Coordinator. If you need a loan to carry you through construction or beyond, call Ellen LaWall, Loan Officer at the Foundation at 1-888-903-9863 to see how we can help!



Pastor Paul Nulton takes a swing.

Gifts to Capital Campaigns

Nash Conversations - Continued from page 1

A Revelation ... Several days later: "How was your day Bob?" "I spent the whole day working on Capital Campaign stuff. It sure is a lot of work, but everyone is so excited and involved that it feels really great to be doing it. I was going through our finances looking for some way to give a better gift. I found two old life insurance policies I took out when I first started work, and some stock from one of the companies when they first went public. Maybe we could cash those in. There are only two problems. Paying the taxes on them would be really tough! Plus, that money would help you in case something happened to me. Time for more prayer, huh?"

A week later: "Bob, the more I think and pray about it, I think those insurance policies and stocks are an answer to prayer. If something did happen to you, I surely wouldn't need the money as much as I'd need faith, and our church. What better use could those policies have than to strengthen our church's ministries?" "We still have the taxes on them." "Hmm. You're right about that."

The Final Answer "Wow, this 'kick-off' event for our Capital Campaign was more exciting than I thought possible. If we can carry this through for the next five weeks, this Campaign will be a complete success."

"Not only that, but I am sure you heard what they said. The Foundation can cash in stocks and insurance policies for you so that we will not have to worry about taxes. So, I am going to 'Call the Foundation' tomorrow morning and get the process started. Not only can we give the gift we want, but we can give most of it up front so the church will have working capital."



Holly and Bob Nash with family pet Kip

The Gift is Made "Remember how I called the Foundation last week? I got the papers today and all there is left for me to do is sign them and mail them in." "Terrific! That sure was easy. I feel really good about it." "So do I. God certainly answered prayer in showing us how we could support our church in a financially sound way."

You can call the Foundation today, toll-free at **1-888-903-9863** to see how we can help your church with a capital campaign. Or ask us how we can help you make a gift of stock, mutual funds, or life insurance to your church, whether it's for a special campaign or the ongoing ministry needs.

Through the generous gifts of folks like Bob and Holly and others, the Church of the Pines in Minocqua was very successful in their capital campaign, raising over \$1 million in cash, pledges and gifts for their building addition.

For more information on how you can make a gift to your church using

**Life Insurance
Appreciated Stock
Mutual Fund Shares
Land or Property**

**Call the Foundation Office today
1-888-903-9863
or email us at wumf@wumf.org**

Scholarship Recipients

Scholarships are granted each year from scholarship endowment funds established through generous gifts from individuals and families. Scholarship recipients are selected based upon leadership and involvement in church, school, and community life. The next scholarship deadline is May 1, 2009. There is a common application for most of these scholarships. Check www.WUMF.org for more information!



Adam Brunner
Briggs Scholar
Monroe UMC
UW Platteville



Claudia Cubilette
Hispanic Scholar
Monona UMC
MATC



Brittany Ballinger
Hispanic Scholar
Appleton First
UW Stevens Point



Nancy Hart
Scholars Award
Pewaukee:
Gethsemane
UW-Whitewater



Betsy Bonilla
Hispanic Scholar
Lake Geneva:
LaResurreccion
Gateway Technical



Charlene Dale
Scholars Award
Sparta UMC
UW Superior



Owen Schreiber
Scholars Award
Wauwatosa:
Bethany Calvary
UW Milwaukee



Rafael Cubilette
Seminarian Award
Monona UMC
Garrett Evangelical
Theological Seminary



Daniel Weyers
Scholars Award
Plover:
The Springs
UW LaCrosse



Dan Verdegan
Seminarian Award
Stoughton UMC
Garrett Evangelical
Theological Seminary



Katie Gaulrapp
Scholars Award
Monroe UMC
Beloit College



Massiel Beswick
Hispanic Scholar
Monona UMC
Edgewood College



Amy Siegenthaler
Roth Scholar
Lamont UMC
UW LaCrosse



Jessie Nickel
Scholars Award
Waupun UMC
Lakeland College

Scholarship Recipients



Samantha Mathias
Koertge Scholar
Darlington UMC
UW Platteville



Ami Alvarado
Hispanic Scholar
Brookfield:
Trinity Pilgrim
UW Madison



Jon Churan
Scholars Award
Sun Prairie UMC
Culinary Institute
of America



Ebenezor Insor
Loraine & Edwin Stefan Scholar
Milwaukee Emanuel UMC
Garrett Evangelical Theological
Seminary



Claire Mather
Vera Dueno Scholar
Madison: Bethany UMC
Hamline University



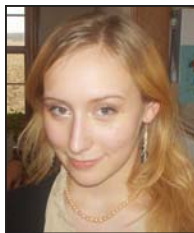
Vanessa Schwartz
Scholars Award
Shullsburg:
Centenary
UW LaCrosse



Julie Schubring
Seminarian Scholar
Kaukauna: Peace
Iliff School of
Theology



Susan Amann
Seminarian Scholar
Hudson UMC
Garrett Evangelical
Theological Seminary



Leah Schmid
DeAtley Scholar
Cedarburg: Community
UW Milwaukee



Emily Carr
DeAtley Scholar
Greenfield: Christ
UW Milwaukee



Coral Pennebecker
DeAtley Scholar
Amherst UMC
UW Milwaukee



Kari Andrews
Harvey Award
West Allis: First
UW Milwaukee



Bree Ann Reynolds
DeAtley Scholar
Mineral Point:
Bethel
UW Milwaukee



Kelsey Reistad
Milwaukee: Albright
Vera Dueno
UW Oshkosh



Kami Jorgenson
Vera Dueno Award
Mineral Point:
Parish of the Hills
Edgewood College

Scholarship Recipients

Amanda Jagodzinski
Vera Dueno Award
West Allis:
First UMC
UW Madison



Thank you to the donors for making these scholarships available. The WUMF scholars awards are sponsored by folks like you that are interested in supporting the education of bright United Methodist students. Your gifts, combined with others, make possible a scholarship of typically \$500 in recognition of a student's many gifts, academic efforts and lived-out examples of servanthood in the church, school and community.

To help ensure the continuation of this program, send your gifts to WUMF or call Rev. Bill Helwig, President of the Foundation, at 1-888-903-9863 to discuss your role in the scholarship program.



Glenn Amundson
DeAtley Scholar
Sun Prairie UMC
UW Platteville

Sara Michalica
Scholars Award
Brown Deer UMC
UW Whitewater



Jacqueline Shaw
DeAtley Scholar
Sparta UMC
Winona State
University



Sean Cornell, Seminarian
Elm Grove UMC
UW Green Bay

Rachel Harmon
Harvey Scholar
Grantsburg UMC
UW Green Bay



Harbor House - Continued from page 1

By working with donors, the Foundation was able to help Harbor House with approximately \$200,000 in matching gifts toward a goal of \$330,000. During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Foundation President Bill Helwig reminded the folks in Superior that it is important to remember the connection of the church. There was significant help with gifts from hundreds of miles away. Thanks to the vision and gracious gifts of people not only within the Superior area, but throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference, this new building is paid in full and there are funds to make any alterations necessary as it transitions from an apartment building to a crisis shelter.



The new Harbor House Crisis Shelter in Superior.

From the President...

“Stewardship...it’s a good thing!”

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation staff travel extensively through Wisconsin in our work with local congregations, laity, and clergy. As you might guess, much of our conversation touches on the topic of finances. I thought you might be interested in hearing about some common realities that we witness in those travels.



*Rev. William Helwig
President*

1. First, you need to know it is very common for churches to experience “financial stress”...especially as we draw closer to the end of the year. Congregations begin to fret about the struggle they are experiencing as they seek to pay their apportioned connectional sharing in full.
2. Second, we encounter a number of congregations who have not done a “stewardship emphasis or annual campaign” in the last year or two. Not surprisingly, these churches are often in the midst of financial struggle.
3. Third, stewardship frequently carries negative connotations in the minds of clergy, laity, church leaders and the at-large congregation. Sometimes that negative image is well deserved because the church has tried to increase giving through manipulation, use of guilt, patterns of “crying wolf” when bills aren’t being paid.
4. Pastors are frequently reluctant to preach on stewardship because they fear criticism and resentment by the congregation.

That’s the down side. But the GOOD NEWS is this...*It doesn’t have to be that way.* We also encounter churches where things are quite different. The key seems to be attitude and perception.

1. Stewardship is sharing from the abundant blessings we have received. It is a practice we follow because we believe the gifts God has placed in our hands are gifts to be shared! Too often stewardship is approached from the perspective that God is trying to take our stuff, rather than understanding that we are called to share God’s stuff.
2. Stewardship is a life-style for the Christian and it is central to our identity.
3. Stewardship is an on-going conversation in a vital congregation. It is normal for participants in a healthy congregation to challenge each other in the act of sharing. Good stewardship is contagious. Personal stewardship witness by laity in worship moments inspires other laity to try sacrificial living, tithing and second-mile efforts.
4. Stewardship happens as members begin to perceive their church’s ministry as having a positive impact on their community and the world beyond.
5. Stewardship happens as we come face to face with Jesus’ teachings on the subject and the real needs of the world around us. This might be involvement with outreach programs like Volunteers in Mission, local food banks, crisis response centers, travel to inner city ministries and 3rd world countries, and Habitat for Humanity.

What’s the perception in your church? Is God’s abundance celebrated and shared? Are people glad to give? Is the pastor encouraged to preach on the subject? Are positive practicing stewards encouraged to share their experience? Is the teaching of Jesus taken seriously? Call the Foundation office if you want help in changing the attitude and perception of your church. It can be different!

William J. Helwig

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WUMF Offers:

Investment Service for local United Methodist Churches. We provide a careful and conservative investment approach for church money, competitive returns, accountability, and permanency.

Capital Campaign Fundraising Services done in two phases; Pre-Campaign Evaluation Study followed by the Intensive Phase.

Endowment Services for churches to develop permanent funds and raise awareness of how contributing to these funds can enrich ministries.

Mortgage Loans designed for qualifying churches, offering low interest rates and flexible terms.

Grants to churches or agencies for developing new and creative ministries throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Planned Giving Services to individuals so they can make a lasting impact on ministries that are important to them. When meeting with individuals, our first question is, "What are your goals?"

Stewardship Services to help congregations develop a year-round stewardship program that will secure the financial resources required to continue and expand ministries.

Training to create a year-round wills, memorials, and estate planning program in your church.