



Foundation Focus

Volume Sixty-one

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Serving United Methodists in West Virginia & Garret County, Maryland

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CREATING A LEGACY OF HOPE

by Kim Matthews, Associate Director



Leah Henry

When Leah Love was eighteen months old, living in Mason County, her father passed away, leaving her mother to make a home for herself and their two small children as a single parent during the Great Depression. It was a difficult task during challenging times.

In 1954, Leah graduated from Point Pleasant High school and married Brookie Henry in Trinity United Methodist Church. Leah and Brookie Henry have two daughters, both of who were confirmed and married in the same church. Tragically, Leah passed away last year. But her legacy of generosity lives on!

In memory of his wife, and in recognition of the difficulties of providing a home and education for children during these challenging times, Brookie Henry has created the **Leah Henry Memorial Scholarship Trust** with the Foundation. This Trust will be a perpetual financial resource to fund a college scholarship for the youth of Trinity United Methodist Church. In addition to recognizing academic excellence, Brookie knows that it would be important to Leah to provide financial assistance to those students who do not have other means to pay for a college education. The criteria for the scholarship award provide for special consideration to children of single parents.

This Trust is a fitting memorial to Leah Henry, reflecting her love of her Lord and her church, the value she placed on education, and the empathy she had with those struggling to raise a family and to provide for their children. It will provide scholarships that will transform lives!

In times like these, God's calling to us to reach out to others, providing assistance when the need is greatest, is growing. Brookie Henry's generosity in the creation of the **Leah Henry Memorial Scholarship Trust** provides an example to all of us of a way in which we can answer that call to stewardship.

Consider the possibilities.

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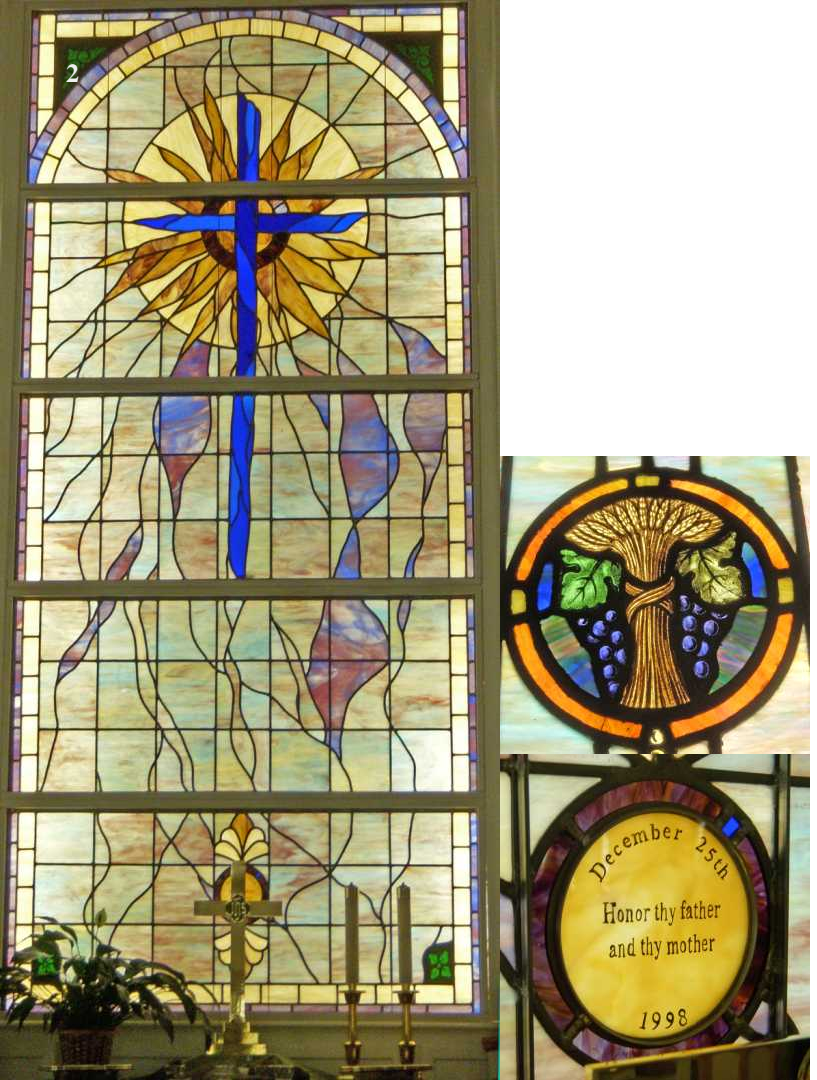
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In Challenging Times

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WHAT EFFECT WILL THE C

Calvary United Methodist Church in Ripley The stained glass windows featured thro how people of this church view the past, p



People in our pews are no doubt affected by the state of the economy in varying degrees. While the area making up our Annual Conference may not be as hard-hit as some areas of the country, we have experienced lost jobs, and we have all seen the value of our investment and retirement accounts shrink during the past year. Even those of us who are not directly affected are still challenged by fear.

How do we respond as the Church of Jesus Christ at such a time as this?

A special report in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* detailed the effect of our fiscal situation on non-profit, charitable organizations. Many charities and foundations have seen their endowments diminished by 20% to 50%, and so they respond by cutting back, meaning less funds will be available to help those who need it now more than ever. In contrast, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which saw its assets decrease by 20% from 2007 to 2008, is responding by giving more: Its budget for 2009 grants is increasing by 500 million dollars. Perhaps this is a model for the Church's response.

The value of our personal income, investments, and retirement funds have been reduced. The value of our churches' reserves and endowments have been reduced. How do we respond? Do we cut back on the ministries of the church? Do we adopt a scarcity worldview? Things may look



ity in Challenging Times

CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS HAVE ON YOUR CHURCH?

Some views these challenging times as the right time to plan for the future. Throughout Calvary United Methodist Church's building are a reflection of present and future.

bleak for us, but what about our neighbors?

At least one church in our Conference views these challenging times as the right time to plan for the future. The leadership of Calvary United Methodist Church in Ripley (Little Kanawha District) recognizes that many people may desire to make an ultimate gift to benefit the church from their estate plan. They understand that the best first step in promoting planned gifts would be to create an endowment fund that would provide a vehicle where people could make gifts from their accumulated resources that would provide an income stream for the church forever.

Recently, Calvary United Methodist Church planted a seed. In an act of faith and selflessness, the church created a lasting endowment fund that can be the recipient of future gifts. The leaders of the church decided to leave the income from the Trust untouched until the principal grows large enough to produce a significant annual income for ministry. The Church trusts that God will lead others to the generosity necessary to allow it to grow.

Future generations will benefit as a result of the act of today's leaders.

Do we choose to see the world through eyes of fear, recognizing only scarcity and believing that we do not have enough?

Or do we see our world through God's clear vision, understanding that during challenging times such as these, our mission is bigger, our call to service is louder, and the need of those around us is more desperate.

In times such as these can we recognize that God has blessed us with abundance and invites us to generosity?

Consider the possibilities!



the stained glass windows featured throughout United Methodist Church, Ripley.

THE FOUNDATION'S RESPONSE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

A message from Jeff Taylor, President

When her cousin, Mordecai, asked Queen Esther to intervene on her people's behalf to the king, her first response was out of fear for her life. When further challenged, however, she replied that perhaps she was placed in her unique position - a Persian Queen/Jew inside the palace - *for such a time as this*. At a time when the economic downturn has many charitable organizations decreasing the level of their support, our first response might be to focus inward. On second thought, perhaps the Foundation is uniquely equipped *for such as time as this*.

For the past several years, included in the Foundation's annual budget has been a line for "Conference Loan." In 2008, the loan was retired, freeing resources to achieve a long-term goal of the Foundation - to make grants with undesignated funds. The Foundation's Board of Trustees, in adopting a 2009 Budget, included the same amount for "Grants." ***This is the Foundation's grateful response to the past and continuing support of the West Virginia Annual Conference and thousands of United Methodists during our 35 year ministry.***

Last week, the Executive Committee determined the distribution of the funds for 2009. The grants highlight the Foundation's objective of expanding and enhancing ministries - those of the Annual Conference, and those of the world.

The first grant is directed to the Annual Conference for the remodeling of the Conference Center Conference Room. This room is used by many committees and task forces from around the Annual Conference, as well as Foundation committee meetings. It has been badly in need of painting and renovations, so the Foundation was glad to be in a position to underwrite that expense. All who come to meetings will be reminded that the renovations were made possible by **their** Foundation.

The second grant is directed far beyond the bounds of our Annual Conference to Mutare, Zimbabwe, home of United Methodist-related Africa University. This year, the Africa University Choir will tour the West Virginia Annual Conference to raise funds (the goal is \$150,000) for scholarships. In addition to singing during the Annual Conference session at West Virginia Wesleyan College, the Choir will do concerts at ten locations around the Conference, including Summer Youth Celebration. The grant from the Foundation will underwrite the cost of the Choir's transportation around the Conference and the rental of the Clay Center for the Choir's Charleston concert on Thursday, June 21.

The Foundation is grateful to be able to respond *at such a time as this*. It is our hope that these grants will be tangible, visible reminders of our missional connection to the ministries of the United Methodist Church.



Jeff Taylor, President

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia serves:

Individuals

as they explore options to respond to God's grace through planned gifts to the church

Local churches

in their task to answer God's call of stewardship through fund development and management.

The United Methodist Church

by raising, managing and distributing funds for the benefit of United Methodist causes and the transformation of the world.



Wanda Mitchell, donor

ETERNAL GENEROSITY

God's blessings inspired her to give. Although Wanda Mitchell died last year, her gracious, generous ministry of giving lives on.

Wanda Mitchell lived a gracious, generous life. During her lifetime, she supported her church and other ministries. She understood that God counted on her gifts, so she made plans through the United Methodist Foundation to leave a legacy of generosity. The daughter of a Methodist minister, she reasoned that supporting the ministries of the United Methodist Church was "one way to show gratitude to God for His many blessings." Wanda died last September at the age of 97. Her generous ministry of giving lives on.

Consider your own legacy. There are many vehicles of planned giving available through the United Methodist Foundation. We work with donors and their advisors to find the right gift to match their needs with the needs of their church or the other ministries they desire to support.

One of the most common types of planned gifts is a bequest—a gift from your estate. Contact us and let us help you tailor your legacy gift, or feel free to use the following bequest language when meeting with your attorney:

I give to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. (tax ID #55-0545643), a non-profit organization located in Charleston, West Virginia, as trustee,

- a) the sum of \$ _____; or,
- b) _____ percent of my estate; or,
- c) all the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, including property over which I shall have power of appointment at my passing, after all debts, taxes, expenses and other bequests have been satisfied...

to establish a permanent endowment fund to be known as the "_____ Memorial Trust," the income from which will be used to support the ministries of _____ United Methodist Church (and/or the other United Methodist and Christian ministries you wish to support).

Contact us at 1-800-788-3746 ext. 45 or e-mail us at info@umfwv.org for more information.



Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow

To learn more about the LEAVE A LEGACY® *Greater West Virginia Program*, visit the website at www.lalwv.org. Remember...when you leave a legacy, you **Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow**. If you or your church would like to learn more about estate gifts or planned giving in general, please feel free to give us a call.



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INCREASING INCOME IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Frederick Buechner says that *“the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”* We find joy in using our gifts to meet the needs of the world around us. In a time when both the needs of the world and our financial challenges are increasing, the Foundation offers options to help.

A charitable gift annuity provides a guaranteed fixed income for life, based on the age of the donor. At the death of the donor, the residual gift becomes the basis of a perpetual trust, with income paid to the beneficiary of the donor’s choice, or can be given as an outright gift to a charitable recipient, chosen by the donor.

Even though the rates for charitable gift annuities decreased at the beginning of February, this is still an excellent option to help donors reach the place where their deep longing and the world’s deepest hunger meet. Here are some sample rates for one-life Charitable Gift Annuities.

Age	Rate	Annuity Payment	Tax Free Portion	Charitable Deduction
60	5.0%	\$500.00	\$325.50	\$2,151.40
70	5.7%	\$570.00	\$405.84	\$3,543.67
80	7.1%	\$710.00	\$550.96	\$4,818.28
90	9.5%	\$950.00	\$799.90	\$6,082.20

Charitable Gift Annuities can also be for two lives. For more information about charitable gift annuities, or for help with your planned giving goals, contact the Foundation.