

What's Up?

St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program Newsletter

September 2002

*The St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program
of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA, ministers to youth,
in loving memory of Michael David Mower and Michael James Ancona*

St. Michaels Supports Home Repairs for Needy

New Hampshire Mission Trip

Early on the morning of July 12, ten intrepid youth and two even more intrepid adults, along with all their gear, piled into a van in St. Mark's parking lot and headed north. Their goal: a six-day work trip in New Hampshire to help rehabilitate homes of those in need. With financial assistance from the St. Michaels Fund, these youth would spend the better part of a week hammering, sawing, sanding, and painting, sleeping in a nearby school and eating their meals in its cafeteria. But it wasn't all work and no play. Along the way, the St. Mark's team saw the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero (albeit from the distant shores of New Jersey), stopped at Plymouth Rock, and toured for whales off-shore.



Thanks to Dana Essick, Emily Carlson, Erin Frederickson, Katie Cubbon, Cate Brink, Stephanie Rosholt, Christine Swan, Will Barnard, Ben Hein, Robby Carroll, Brian Stevenson and Andrea Dobberman for living the gospel!

Emily Carlson writes:

Mission Trip was a great experience for me and the nine other youth from St. Marks. We went to New Hampshire for one week with 380 other youth from around the country to change 63 lives for the better. My crew went to a house with an elderly parent, a woman, and two sons. Our tasks were to build a wheelchair ramp, rebuild a section of the porch, add a rodent guard around the porch, and paint it all. By Thursday we were completely done with our tasks so on Friday we went to another crew's work site to help them complete their job of rebuilding the roof. We were all pleased that we finished our tasks and that our residents have fewer things to worry about! I have grown more as a person because of this trip, and I am happy to say that I can now rebuild wood porches, paint, and do roofing! This is an experience of a lifetime that I will never forget.

Have a Dream

The long term vision of the St. Michaels Fund is to establish a youth center, a safe haven where neighborhood and local youth and parents can gather, talk, get advice, have someone to talk to - a new facility that might be called "Mikes Place." Mikes Place is still a dream, but a major step was taken last year with purchase of the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot adjoining the church property, funded in part with \$1,000 from the St. Michaels Fund.

A second major step toward Mikes Place was taken this year with the creation of a study group tasked with committing the vision to paper. A concept has begun to emerge, complete with residential facilities and multiple use space for St.

Mark's and its ministries. Look for more information in the months ahead as the study group works out program, funding, and organizational form details. Your continuing gifts to St. Michaels will help make the dream come true.

Presidential Classroom

Earlier this summer, Tim Peterson, one of St. Mark's high school youth was selected to participate in the prestigious Presidential Classroom with nearly 500 other juniors and seniors from forty states, Puerto Rico, the Marshall Islands, and Venezuela, held in Washington, D.C. This unique opportunity gives promising young scholars an inside look at Washington, and includes everything from visits in Congressional offices to seminars with Ralph Nader. The St. Michaels Fund was pleased to provide partial support for Tim's participation.

Tim Peterson writes about Presidential Classroom:

We observed the Fourth of July on the National Mall, toured the White House, and spent two days on Capitol Hill. Every day a number of seminars were held, consisting of a keynote speaker who would speak for a time followed by a student question and answer session. The week concluded on a Friday night with a graduation celebration. Scholars were entertained in a grand ballroom by a small group representing the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. They were excellent. The elegant dinner was followed by a dance for students and advisors alike that continued well into the night.

Grants for Summer Camps

The Fund continues to encourage attendance at Lutheran summer camps by offering a \$50 grant to children in the congregation and local community to attend one camping session each summer. Participating Lutheran camps include Caroline Furnace, located near Luray, VA, and Mar-Lu Ridge, near Frederick, MD. Contact Brian Stevenson about 2003 camps.



Callie Nestleroth writes:

Thank you for the scholarship to Caroline Furnace. I had a great time. Creek walking and swimming in the lake were just a few of the things I liked. My [counselor] was very nice.

About the St. Michaels Fund

The St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program was established in 1996 as a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The fund provides financial assistance through the distribution of earnings from endowment fund investments for youth and family-oriented ministries of the congregation in local, national, and international communities. As of August 31, 2002, the total value of the Fund, including gains on principal and accumulated earnings, was \$45,357. The managing Board members are: Dan Ancona (Chairman), Nancy Mower (Recording Secretary), Blake Thompson (Financial Secretary), Allison Griswald (Youth Committee), Fred Shellhammer, Mary Lou Carroll, Mary Veraa, Steven Carlson, Ingrid Sanden and Trudy Stellar. Money and other assets donated to the St. Michaels Endowment Fund are invested in mutual funds, publicly traded U.S. stocks, and other income producing instruments through the Legg Mason brokerage firm.

How to Apply for Funds

St. Michaels fund distributions are available for youth-related activities that give glory to God; raise up the gospel to young people and families; meet youth ministry needs for non-budget programs, outreaches, and special situations; or otherwise affirm Christ to the church and unchurched youths of the community, nation or the world. Typical uses of funds to date have included: scholarships, tuition assistance, conference fees, expenses related to youth ministries, and donations of equipment to overseas missions. Requests for loans or grants should be submitted in writing to the Fund Board through the St. Marks Youth Committee by contacting Brian Stevenson, Youth Director at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (703) 451-4331. The Fund Board reserves the right to make final decisions for the distribution of earnings.

Distributions included:

New Hampshire Mission Trip	\$900
Supported World Vision Famine youth project	500
Purchased College Care Packs for 9 students	100
Lutheran Summer Camp Grants	150
Sponsored Presidential Classroom participant	500
Land Purchase (with funds allocated in 2000)	<u>1,000</u>
2002 Total	\$3,150

Making Contributions:

There are many ways you can make a bequest or donation to the St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment fund. In addition to cash donations, you can make a bequest to the church in the form of stocks, bonds, property, life insurance or other assets that can be used to support the mission and programs of the St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program. For more information and ideas, contact the Board through:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
5800 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22150
(703) 451-4331
fax: (703) 451-4374
email: stmarksendow@aol.com
web: www.stmarks-elca.org

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."-- Matthew 25, v 44 and 45