

What's Up?

St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program Newsletter

December 2001

*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 Foster Children



Winifred Frederick, Mike Mathis, Dan Ancona and Nancy Mower

College Life

Making the transition from high school to college is both exciting and challenging, for youth and parents alike. The Fund was able to make this transition a little easier for some of the college-bound youth of St. Mark's.

First, the fund extended some modest scholarship assistance to Michael Mathis, a St. Mark's member, to help defray some of the expenses of attending Roanoke College, a Lutheran church supported traditional liberal arts college in southern Virginia. Mike's mother, Winifred Frederick, appreciated the scholarship because there is less financial assistance at small private schools compared to large public institutions.

Second, the fund provided funds to support care packages for our college students. Current plans call for youth ministry to purchase the goodies and pack them up for shipment as one of their Fall activities. Not only will the care packages help fill some of small needs of our youth in transition, we hope they will reinforce the connection to St. Mark's.

Mike Mathis writes:

The Saint Michaels Fund is a great program that helps out in the development and support of youth mission ministry. This organization gets involved in supporting many programs in and outside of church. The money earned is used for beneficial purposes not traditionally included in the church's annual operating budget. These special funds can mean many things to many people. The Saint Michaels Fund has provided a scholarship that assisted me with my college funds. I have been given the opportunity to attend the college where I feel I will have an impact on the world. This year I will be attending Roanoke College where I will have the opportunity to allow my mind to grow spiritually and educationally. I thank you and encourage all the youth members to ask and try to understand what the Saint Michaels Fund can mean for you.

Quilts, Hats and More

In December 2000, as the chill winds of winter blew through our community, the St. Michaels Fund helped offer a little warmth to children in need. Mary Anderson and many other ladies of the church, turned materials purchased with funds provided by St. Michaels, into 192 quilts, 27 hats, and 7 scarves. These were distributed through the foster children care program of Fairfax County and to needy kids at a local elementary school. *Continued on Page 2.*

Grants for Lutheran Summer Camp

In 1999, the Fund board established a continuing grant program to encourage attendance at Lutheran summer camps. The Fund offers a \$50 grant to each child in the congregation and local community to attend one camping session each summer. The money is sent directly to the camp to offset a portion of the registration fee. Lutheran camps in the area that participate in the program are Caroline Furnace, located near Luray, VA, and Mar-Lu Ridge, near Frederick, MD.

Last summer, five children signed up for the grants with three going to Caroline Furnace and two going to a Junior Camp session at Mar-Lu-Ridge. One young camper, an English as Second Language (ESL) student at St. Mark's and originally from Vietnam, wrote a letter saying "I got to go fishing. Trust me, if you go to Caroline Furnace, you will have a great time and best of all you will learn more about God."

With the Summer of 2001 past, the Board's attention is turning to the Summer of 2002. If you are interested in the grant program for next year, contact Brian Stevenson (703) 452-4331 or Judy Troast (703) 455-9030.

Quilts and Hats (Continued)

Carol Dutton from the Fairfax County Foster Care Office said, "You need to see the faces of these children when they receive these gifts. They just light up." Mary Anderson pointed out that, "The Mikes and the supporters of the Fund --love on". She added that she meant "live on," but that both were correct.



Have a Dream

The long term vision of the St. Michaels Fund is to establish a youth center. The goal is to underwrite the acquisition and operation of a neighborhood "safe house" where youth from the local area and parents can come for a place to talk, to get advice, to have someone to talk too...a place that might be called "Mike's House." Mike's House is still at the dream stage, but a major step was taken when \$1,000 was allocated toward the down payment for purchasing a 3/4 acre property adjoining the current church property. At closing these funds were not needed, so they will be held for future development and detailed planning for this opportunity will occur in 2001. They need you and your investment to come true.

Status of the Fund

As of July 31, 2001, the Fund's principle was approximately \$41,062. The total value of the Fund, including available gains on principle and accumulated earnings, was \$45,588. Current investments are in stock funds (9%), equity funds (84%), trusts (2%) and a money market account.

Distributions approved during 2000/1 include:

Roanoke College Scholarship	8/01	\$1000
Fairfax Social Service Foster Child	8/01	275
Lutheran Summer Camp Grants	7/00	280
Allocation for land purchase	10/00	<u>1,000</u>
Total		\$2,555

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. Money and other assets donated to the St. Michael's Endowment fund are invested in mutual funds, publicly traded U.S. stocks, and other income-producing instruments through the Legg Mason brokerage firm. A Board manages the fund:

Officers

Dan Ancona, Chairman
Judy Troast, Vice Chairman
Nancy Mower, Recording Secretary
Blake Thompson, Financial Secretary
Allison Griswald, Youth Representative

Members

David Schmidt
Fred Shellhammer
Steven Carlson
Mary Lou Carroll
Mary Veraa

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 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 all final decision for the distribution of earnings in response to loan and grant requests.

Making Contributions --- Did you know that:

The Board invites your donations and contributions to the St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Fund. In addition to cash donations, there are many other ways you can make a bequest to the church to support the mission and programs of the St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program. For more information and ideas, contact Stan Rose, Executive Director, Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium (703) 548-5017, or the St. Michaels Board through:

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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