

# What's Up?

## St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program Newsletter

### September 2003

*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 Kicks Off "Endowing the Endowment" Campaign

### Endowing the Endowment Funds: A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge

St. Mark's celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2003. This significant milestone gives each of us the opportunity to look back on five decades of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ to our community, region, nation, and the world. It also provides the opportunity to dream of what the future might bring. The St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program has just such a dream: celebrate 50 years of the Lord's ministry by endowing the future with \$5,000,000 in bequests to support youth mission and ministry at St. Mark's and beyond.

Endowment funds may assume several forms, but their common characteristic is that only the income they generate may be spent, while the principal remains intact. When a gift is made to the endowment, the principal is maintained inviolate and in perpetuity. It is invested for the purpose of producing present and future income. Endowment income contributes in distinct and meaningful ways to St. Mark's ability to support programs beyond our regular operating budget.

The heart of the campaign is to obtain an endowment with sufficient principal to generate earnings that would underwrite the staffing and operation of a youth and family center—Mikes Place, a safe haven where neighborhood and local youth and parents can gather, talk, get advice, have someone to talk to. A permanent endowment will also foster the development and training of professional youth ministry leaders, support Christian education, provide programs for youth and families in our congregation, neighborhood beyond, and support outdoor ministries for youth.

The dream is large, and the challenges are many. But the reward – in expanded and enhanced ministry to the youth of our congregation and community – is great.

### ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza

Have you ever considered the challenges of raising the gospel to our youth and their families? This special ministry is notorious for the high burnout rates for its leaders, with the average church Youth Director serving for just 18 months. ELCA's Youth Ministry Network provides support and education to volunteer and professional individuals committed to the work of ministering to youth and families. The February 2003 Extravaganza provided hundreds of youth workers from across the country – including one of St. Mark's own, Andrea Dobberman – a chance to rest, to learn, and to re-energize for ministry. The St. Michaels Fund was pleased to provide partial support to enable Andrea's participation in this unique event, and doubly blessed with her decision to attend Seminary as a result. We praise the Lord for the benefits that untold numbers of young people will reap in Andrea's future ministries.



*Andrea Dobberman writes:*

*The single most memorable part of the event was the spirit of camaraderie and passion for ministry shared by the nearly 800 participants. It's impossible to not feel renewed in such a gospel-rich environment! The consistent message I heard throughout was that youth workers cannot and should not endeavor to minister alone. Helping youth to learn about Jesus Christ and to come to a personal relationship with God is work that must be shared by parents, our congregations, and the greater church*

*Each day I had the opportunity to participate in worship, hear keynote speakers, and to attend workshops designed to equip us for ministry.... My experiences at the Extravaganza, particularly the support I received from friends and fellow participants greatly encouraged me in my decision to enter Seminary this fall. I love working with youth, and know that this passion will be at the heart of whatever ministry I eventually pursue after my seminary education.*

**Andrea Dobberman writes about Seminary:**

*I'm writing to express my appreciation to St. Mark's for the financial support you have provided for my fall semester tuition here at Wartburg. I received notification of the \$1,000 gift during the same week in which I received the certificate of appreciation and your note. I feel incredibly blessed to have both financial and prayer support from St. Mark's.*

*Since arriving at Wartburg, I have had time to reflect further on the journey of the last several years and how I have been led to this place. Essential to my "call story" are the ways in which my gifts were recognized and nurtured at St. Mark's, and I appreciate the ways that St. Mark's is continuing to nurture my growth across the miles.*

St Michaels Endowment Fund provided \$250 toward the \$1,000 seminarian gift. Andrea's story is an epitome example of our fund objectives in action. Seventy-five percent of first career decision for the ministry are made by people who have attended a youth camp. Andrea has been both a youth camp attendee and a leader of our youth at church Confirmation camps. Andrea's objective is a pastoral ministry with an emphasis on youth ministry.

**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 2004 camps, 703-451-4331.



**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 September 24, 2003, the total value of the Fund, including gains on principal and accumulated earnings, was \$66,951. The managing Board members are: Dan Ancona (Chairman), Nancy Mower (Recording Secretary), Blake Thompson (Financial Secretary), Fred Schellhammer, Mary Lou Carroll, Mary Veraa, Steven Carlson, 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 oversea 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:**

Lutheran Summer Camp Scholarships	\$300
West Virginia Mission Trip	500
Youth Leadership Training Scholarship	250
Seminary Scholarship	250
World Vision Youth Project	<u>500</u>
2003 Total	\$1,800

**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:

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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*