

Mission Statement

Foster a vibrant spirit of Christian Stewardship and generosity to create a perpetual source of earnings, which strengthens the financial capabilities of St. Paul's UMC and assists the church in fulfilling its stated mission "To know and follow Christ and to help others know and follow Christ."

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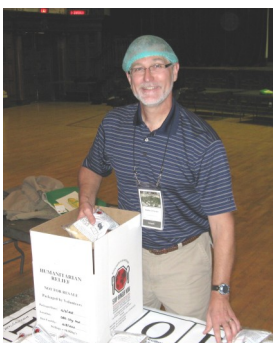


Quentin Wagenfield

Editor

Harlan Gillespie Reports on World Methodist Conference in Africa

Vivid colors, vibrant sounds. Generous, resilient people of faith from all over the world. I am thankful to all who have contributed to the St. Paul's UMC Foundation for the opportunity that you provided to me to accept Bishop Trimble's nomination and attend the World Methodist Conference hosted in Durban, South Africa, August 4-8, 2011. The Conference, first held in London in 1881, has been held every five years with interruptions for the First and Second World Wars. It brings together all the Christian churches of the world who claim John Wesley as their spiritual heritage.



Pastor Harlan packing boxes for meals that will go to African famine areas.

This was the first conference hosted on the African Continent, and it was well attended by many African Methodists, some of whom did not have the resources to attend past conferences.

I found the dynamic of so many and varied Methodists gathered in one place to be exhilarating. The energy of this conference was greater than most other "conferences" of Methodism I've attended. The feeling of "connectionalism" was real and inspiring. In American Methodism we have so many more resources, yet our energy for Jesus Christ is minimal compared to the thousands of Methodists who came from places of the world where resources for ministry are much less than what we have!

Preachers and speakers challenged me to think of the bigger picture of Christ's church as Methodists. Bishop Mvume Dandala (Methodist Church of South Africa), Archbishop Elias Chacour (Melkite Church of Galilee), Dr. Claudio Betti (co-founder of St. Egidio in Rome), and Dr. Joy Moore (Duke Divinity School) spoke of the deep faith God calls forth from us in our work for Christ in the world. Seminars on healing, prayer (the joy of praying, simultaneously with others, out loud, in all of our native languages!), missions, education, health, along with a Sunday trip hosted by the Tumbleweed Methodist Church of South Africa



Delegate march and street rally in Durban.

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Hancock's Legacy created at St. Paul's

After The Rev. Eugene Hancock's death on November 26, 2011 at age 89, his family suggested that memorial gifts could be made to St. Paul's Foundation, as well as the Foundation at First United Methodist Church in Independence and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston Illinois for the Eugene Hancock Scholarship. Dr. Hancock served St. Paul's as the senior pastor from the late 1970's until retiring



Eugene Hancock

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Speichers Establish Fund for Youth

Gary and Susan Speicher have established the *GARY AND SUSAN SPEICHER FUND FOR YOUTH* with the St. Paul's Foundation. Each year a consensus among the adult leaders of the youth programs will determine how the distribution from the fund will be used. "In some years," said Gary, "the distribution may be used for a mission trip, and other years perhaps it will be used for a local service project, like Habitat for Humanity. I like the flexibility St. Paul's youth will have to dream a little bigger than they can now. It will be exciting for our family to see how this fund may be able to grow and enhance the youth programs in service to Christ and the Church."



Gary and Susan Speicher

Initially, distributions will come from a portion of the St. Paul's UMC Foundation Agency Fund with the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. The Speichers took advantage of that fund, established by the Foundation's board in 2011, to qualify for a \$2,500 tax credit on their Iowa income tax for 2011. With their gift of \$10,000 to the St. Paul's fund at the GCRCF, 25% of the gift qualifies for the tax credit. See the story on page 2 of this issue of the *Messenger* for more information about Endow Iowa tax credits. In the future, the Speicher Fund will be enhanced by proceeds from a life insurance policy that was pur-

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Make a gift. Receive Tax Credits.



St. Paul's Foundation participates in the Endow Iowa program through our agency fund at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. The Endow Iowa program has made our state a leader in helping create permanent funds that benefit Iowa communities.

The program was established to encourage individuals, businesses and organizations to make lasting investments in their communities by establishing permanent, endowed funds during their lifetime. In exchange, donors can claim state income tax incentives worth 25 percent of the amount of their gift (in addition to federal charitable deductions).

The Foundation's Board of Directors established St. Paul's Fund in 2011; several members have already supported the fund, including Gary and Sue Speicher. See their story on the left.

Contributions of any amount to the St. Paul's United Methodist Church Foundation Agency Endowed Fund are eligible. In 2012, legislation on tax credits allows for \$4.5 million in tax credits annually on a first-come, first-serve basis.

More information about Endow Iowa, including the tax credit application form and updated information on the status of available tax credits is available at: Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) www.iowalifechanging.com.

Foundation Scholarships Available

Scholarships from the Foundation are now available—applications must be received by April 15, 2012. Information and instructions are on the Foundation web site—www.stpaulsumc.org, click on *St. Paul's Foundation, Home, Learning*, then *Scholarships*.

From the Archives . . .

By Clarence Burton

The birth of St. Paul's Foundation can be traced to the early 1970's, when the Reverend Dr. Arnold Herbst initiated the formation of a Foundation. The purpose of the proposed Foundation was to accept funds or property by gifts, bequests or devise, to be kept separate from Church funds. The principal amount was to remain intact and only the income earned from those gifts was to be distributed to the Church. Income from gifts designated for specific purposes was to be used for those purposes and income from undesignated gifts was to be used for benevolences or for capital improvements. In the early years, acceptance and administration of those gifts was through the Board of Trustees and the Wills and Legacies Committee. In searching through various historical documents, no evidence has been found that established a "birth date" for the Foundation. So . . . at the January 25, 2012 meeting of the Foundation's Board, **June 10, 1975** was chosen to be the Foundation's *official* birth date because, on that date the Administrative Board of St. Paul's United Methodist Church approved the original By-Laws for St. Paul's United Methodist Church Foundation. Those By-Laws were prepared by the Church's Board of Trustees and the Wills and Legacies Committee, as authorized by the Charge Conference on December 10, 1974. This "birth date" will soon start appearing in printed materials issued by the Foundation.

In recognition of this "birth date", a celebration will be planned during coffee time in the Parlor, following the 9:00 worship service on June 10, 2012. Plan to join us for cake, chocolate, coffee or punch, and fellowship on that date.

Milestones during the history of the Foundation will appear in this column in future issues of *The Messenger*.

Hancock's Legacy Created at St. Paul's

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to Independence in 1987. One of his daughters, Lora Lea Edwards and her husband Charles, are both members of St. Paul's. To date, two dozen people have remembered Dr. Hancock's service to St. Paul's by making a gift in his memory. These gifts will be stewarded in perpetuity, creating his living legacy as annual distributions are made to advance the mission of St. Paul's Church.

Planning Matters

By Connie Richardson, Executive Director

Some time ago, you probably met with your attorney and made your will. Then you checked it off your 'to-do' list and have not given it much thought since. Maybe that was a year ago and maybe it was more years ago than you care to think about. In any case, it may be time to put it back on your 'to-do' list. Not to make a new will necessarily, but to review whether or not your current will may be obsolete.



Connie Richardson

There are a number of reasons you may want to make changes in your will: fourteen of them are listed below:

Marriage

Birth of a child or grandchild

A child has reached adulthood

Divorce

Death of a spouse

Increases in the value of your assets

Acquisition of new assets by gift or inheritance

Giving away or selling assets mentioned in your will

Death of a beneficiary named in your will

Changes in the needs of your beneficiaries

An executor or trustee has died, moved, or has become disabled

You have moved to another state

You have purchased or sold real estate

You have decided to make additional bequests, such as a gift for the future support of St. Paul's

We also ask you, if you **DO** make a change, to consider including St. Paul's in your estate plans. St. Paul's seeks and accepts gifts of all sizes, and, by policy, will use unrestricted estate gifts for the church's permanent endowment with the St. Paul's UMC Foundation. Income from your will, will be used in perpetuity to fulfill the church's mission.

Please take a few moments to think about the changes you may need to make, then contact me if you have questions about St. Paul's Foundation or how the Foundation would steward your estate gift.

Rev. Harlan Gillespie —World Methodist Conference

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in Howick for worship and dinner, visiting the elementary school of Nelson Mandela, singing in the worship choir for WMC worships (wow!), visiting Africa University, its faculty and students (and walking on the original grounds that Don Shaw and Wes Nygren helped develop!), and so many wonderful, Christian conversations – these are only highlights of a trip that has changed my life, deepened my faith, and – hopefully – increased my effectiveness as a pastor and preacher, all thanks to you.

The picture with this article caught me packing boxes for some of the 100,000 meals conference goers and Methodist school youth and young adults assembled during the conference. These meals were sent to famine areas of Africa following the conference. All in all, I came away from the World Methodist Conference and Africa University with more hope for the world than I have had in a long time, maybe the most in my life – all because of the amazing work that God is doing through the Methodists of the world. And that hope has not lessened, thanks to God and to you, friends in Christ!

Speichers Establish Fund for Youth

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chased by Gary some years ago and given to the Foundation.

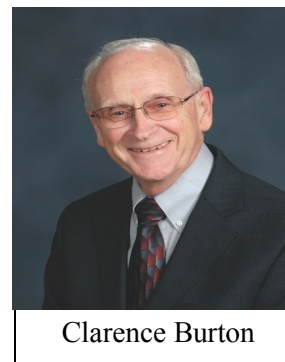
The Speichers are long-time members of St. Paul's and have been involved in nearly every aspect of the life of the church. All three of their children grew up in St. Paul's and were active in the youth programs. Gary currently serves on the Foundation's board of directors and both he and Sue are members of the Compass adult Sunday school class. Also involved in the greater Cedar Rapids community, their other charitable interests include Camp Courageous, Coe College, Iowa State University, and Mount Mercy University. As a financial planner, Gary is a member of several local charitable professional organizations. Gary's professional team includes Sue Speicher and Diana Irvin, also a St. Paul's member and currently the Foundation board's secretary.

Foundation Financial Report

By Clarence Burton

In this first issue of *The Messenger* in 2012, I'm pleased to report the Foundation's investment portfolio is performing well. For the four month's of the fiscal year, that started October 1, 2011, the portfolio has increased \$510,162 reflecting a 11.63% rate of return for the period.

As mentioned previously in this column, members of the Foundation's Investment Committee meet quarterly with its portfolio managers from Wells Fargo. At their last meeting in January, comments were that the volatility in the financial markets during 2011 reflected mixed results for two commonly followed indices, with the Standards & Poor's 500 Index finishing the year almost *exactly* where it started—1,257.60 vs 1,257.69, and the Dow Jones Industrial Index increasing 5.5% —12,217.56 vs 11,577.51. The volatility of the past year is expected to continue for much of this year, involving most of the same factors that have been present for the past several months and years. Political unrest in several countries as well as uncertainties in the international economy is expected to continue. While there are still several dark clouds in the U. S. economy, there are a number of positive signs: slightly declining unemployment rates (although expected to remain above 8% for the year); slight increases in the housing markets; continued increases in consumer confidence; expansion in the manufacturing and services sectors; returning strength in the automotive industry; and, an abundance of cash being held by many large companies, poised for business expansion.



Clarence Burton

As we continue to state, the Foundation Board believes its investment philosophy and policy is sound and our portfolio managers continue to affirm our investment portfolio is positioned to perform well as the economy continues to improve.

As always, if you have specific questions or desire additional information of a financial nature, feel free to contact me through the Church office or by email at clarence@stpaulsumc.org.