

# Focus on the Foundation

Spring 2008

Volume 8 Issue 1

*A Report of the United Methodist Foundation to the Wisconsin Annual Conference*

## Gifts of New Life

When Vida Kollath received a gift of life insurance from her mother and father many years ago, she never imagined it would become the source of a major charitable gift. Vida and her husband, the Rev. Lynn Kollath, used this \$8,000 gift to purchase a paid up life insurance policy for Vida. Last year, they withdrew the cash value of the policy to invest in a commercial annuity which gives a 15 year payout. This pays the pre-



mium on a new joint life policy with a sizeable death benefit. They transferred ownership of the policy to the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation and included a letter of instruction.

At the time of their deaths, their gift will establish a Music Ministry Endowment Fund to provide music, training, instruments, and sound equipment to enhance the music ministry of United Methodist Churches throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Five percent of the market value of this fund will be distributed to bring new life to music ministries throughout the state into perpetuity.

*Kollath - Continued on page 4*

## From the President...

This is an uneasy time in our world. We are trying to learn how to deal with terrorism in ways that don't create more chaos and violence. Energy use is skyrocketing as the standard of living continues to rise in many nations around the globe. We are a nation that "gulps gasoline" and it is getting more expensive to maintain our own lifestyles. The "subprime" mortgage crisis is spreading to new sectors of the economy every day.

Feb 29, 2008 was not only a leap day, it also brought us another major drop in stock market indexes. Those who have retirement funds or other investments wince every time there is more negative news. In the midst of global warming forecasts we have just broken all time records for snowfalls in a winter season.



*Rev. William Helwig*

*President*

It's in times like this that I find it helpful to lift up the **good news!**

First, it is good news to know that the church often thrives best in difficult times. There is something about the human spirit that causes us to re-examine who we are and what we should be about in tough times. Simply put, we rediscover our limitedness and God's gracious abundance in dark moments.

*President's letter- Continued on page 7*

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# Church Loan Program

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## Q and A about the Foundation Loan Program

***What type of loan can our church receive?*** The Foundation offers construction loans if your church is building, remodeling, or repairing. You pay interest only on funds during construction. We also offer loans to refinance your current mortgage that you may have with another institution.

***What types of loan options are available?*** We currently offer Adjustable Rate Loans with terms up to fifteen years, amortized a maximum of twenty years. Also available is a Line-of-Credit Loan which allows the church to draw on a pre-established line of credit for capital projects without needing to repeat the loan approval process.

***What requirements are there for applying for a loan?*** There is a thorough application and underwriting process that the church must complete. A church must pass our cash flow model and show how it plans to repay or service the debt without jeopardizing the support of ongoing church mission and ministries. The church must have paid their Conference Apportionments in full for at least the last three years. The church should also follow the Book of Discipline in regard to receiving necessary approvals at the District level and from a Church conference.

***Our church doesn't have any money invested in the Foundation. Will that work against us?*** Only when there are more loan applications than there are funds available for lending. If that is the case, with all other things being equal, applications are prioritized. Churches that have part or all of their Foundation investments in the Loan Pooled Fund are given top priority. Churches that have investment accounts at the Foundation are given the next level of priority over those that have no funds invested here.

**INTEREST RATES ARE AT AN HISTORIC LOW FOR THE WEEK OF**

**MARCH 18, 2008**

**5 year fixed rate: 4.75%**

**10 year fixed rate: 5.75%**

***What is the interest rate today?*** Check our web site [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) weekly for current rates. Our rates are quite competitive and are evaluated every Tuesday. A church's interest rate is locked at the time the application is received in our office.

***Are there any prepayment penalties?*** No! In fact, many churches are able to repay their loans early.

***What can we use as collateral for a loan?*** One option is to use a first mortgage on church property as security for a loan. The second option is to use church funds on deposit with the Foundation as collateral.

***The Foundation's loan portfolio exceeds \$5 million. How can the Foundation afford this?*** Many churches and Boards within the Conference have elected to direct some or all of their funds currently invested in the Foundation to our Loan Pool Fund. This Loan Pool Fund provides the resources to fund all of our loans. This is a great example of stewardship of church resources.

***What happens if a church begins to experience difficulty in keeping current on its loan payments?*** The Foundation will continually monitor the performance of all outstanding mortgages. If we notice that a church is beginning to experience difficulties in their repayment, our staff will provide stewardship assistance and guidance to help the church regain sound stewardship patterns. Unlike a commercial lender, the Foundation's primary goal is to help a church grow in ministry and maximize its available resources. We expect every church to successfully repay their church loan.

***How do I get more information?*** Call Ellen LaWall at the Foundation at 1-888-903-9863 for more information on loans or investing in our loan program. Also check out our website: [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org).



*Ellen LaWall, Loan Officer*

### Campaign Helps Church Go Up and Down

Appleton Emmanuel UMC is able to reach new heights – and depths – because of their new elevator! The folks at Emmanuel recently dedicated their new elevator that goes down to their lower level fellowship hall, and up to all their classrooms in the second floor education area. A handicapped accessible restroom, updated kitchenette, hand railings at the entrance, and an enhanced fire alarm system were also added. The congregation proceeded with this project in order to better fulfill their mission of “We Welcome, We Worship, We Witness.” The theme of the campaign was “A Welcoming Piece”.

After nearly 20 years of discussion about the future of Emmanuel the decision was made to stay at their downtown College Avenue location. This decision meant they needed to begin the work needed to make the present building suit their ministry. The first step was funding, so the Building Committee contacted the Foundation to get on the calendar for a Pre-Campaign Evaluation Study. After basic building plans were created and the members had been informed about the plans, a team from the Foundation came to Emmanuel in November 2006 to do private one hour interviews with a representative sample of 25-30 individuals and couples from the congregation. The follow up report from the Pre-Campaign Evaluation Study shared what the team heard and learned about the attitudes of the people interviewed, major issues or obstacles around the project, the team’s recommendations, and interviewee’s comments. The team also helped determine the monetary goal that could likely be achieved in a campaign.

As the Building Committee continued its work, a Capital Campaign Committee was formed to work with staff from the Foundation to develop a campaign to guide people on their spiritual journey, as they asked what God was calling them to give to the elevator project. The committee began meeting in January of 2007 and concluded with a Commitment Sunday in March. The work on the elevator building project began in early August and ended in early January.

In reviewing the campaign and the relationship with the Foundation, Kent Willets, co-chair of Emmanuel’s Campaign Committee says “Working with the Foundation on our Capital Campaign was a great experience. The Foundation staff brought a wealth of experience to the table. We didn’t know anything about planning, organizing or executing a Capital Campaign, but they sure did! From interviewing our congregation, to helping us set an achievable goal, to working side-by-side with us through the planning, execution and follow-up...the Foundation staff was terrific!! The campaign went off without a hitch. We hit our goal! Our new elevator is in, the new roof is on, the lounge is redone, and the boiler and windows are next!! The Foundation made our Capital Campaign nearly a turn-key experience...I’d recommend them to anyone!”

If your church is thinking about raising funds for a major project, call Lenore Geisthardt at the Foundation at 1-888-903-9863 to see how we can help!



*Miss Janet talks with her Sunday School class about how an elevator will be a “Welcoming Piece”.*

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## Grants

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### Grants Totaling \$90,215 Awarded

The Foundation awarded 37 grants in 2008 for a total of \$90,125. Check out [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) for further details on how we might be able to help your church with a new, creative and innovative ministry.

Albany UMC After School Program (\$1200)

Beaver Dam Trinity UMC Special Needs Sunday School (\$1500)

Blackhawk: Bethlehem UMC After School Ministry (\$750)

Circuit 2: Advertising/Seminar (\$1890)

Circuit 4: Northwoods – Puppet Ministry (\$700)

Circuit 32: Float (\$500)

Columbus UMC Second Worship Service (\$1165)

DePere: New Hope UMC Children/Youth Ministry (\$4250)

Dodgeville UMC Connections Ministry (\$2000)

Fall River UMC Multi-Media (\$1250)

Franksville After School Tutoring/Recreation Ministry (\$2500)

Green Bay: First UMC Friendship Ministries (\$500)

Green Bay: Vida Nueva Youth/Family Ministry (\$2500)

Madison: Asbury UMC Children's Television Ministry (\$3600)

Mequon UMC (\$3000)

Milwaukee: Albright UMC Rotation Sunday School (\$2950)

Milwaukee: Albright UMC Website Development (\$3500)

Mukwonago: Caldwell UMC Financial Software (\$500)

Neenah: The Family Church Children's Curriculum (\$522)

New Berlin: Bethel Hill UMC (\$1200)

Oak Creek: Community UMC Contemporary Worship Service (\$3685)

Osceola UMC Family Ministries (\$900)

Sun Prairie UMC Java Notes Outreach (\$1500)

Sussex UMC Women's Ministries (\$1200)

UMW: Hmong House of Good News (\$6000)

United Methodist Men (\$1500)

WAC BOOM Seminary Scholarships (\$7000)

WAC BOOM Clergy Effectiveness Study (\$5000)

WAC Cabinet: Clergy Sabbaticals (\$8100)

WAC Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors & Associates (\$4200)

Waushara County WINR Program (\$2000)

Wisconsin Council of Churches NCRAT materials (\$2000)

West Grant Charge: Hymnals and Song books (\$500)

Whitefish Bay UMC After School Ministry (\$4000)

Whitefish Bay UMC Youth Website (\$4570)

Wisconsin Rapids UMC Rotation Sunday School (\$441)

Wisconsin Rapids UMC Special Needs Ministry (\$2000)

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#### *Kollath - Continued from Page 1*

Vida and Lynn met at North Central College. North Central will receive a portion of the proceeds to provide scholarships to students pursuing studies in Christian leadership.

Lynn's alma mater, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, (G-ETS), will also receive a gift to establish a special scholarship to provide gifts throughout the academic year to students in need. Lynn remembered how one of the churches he pastored came to the aid of a needy student at G-ETS who was from India. He and Vida want to offer the same assistance to students today.

They also want to remember each of their home churches and the congregations they served throughout their ministry – Lynn as a pastor and Vida as a church musician. Each of those congregations will receive a gift to be used for Christian education and/or music ministry to be determined by the Church Council.

The Kollath's commitment to making these many gifts is evident in their willingness to make premium payments on this life insurance policy for a total of 15 years.

While we hope the 11 churches and other ministries who will benefit from their generosity have to wait a good long time to receive these gifts, we give thanks for their foresight and thoughtfulness.

Many pastors often joke about being in the "life insurance business"! Vida and Lynn give us an example of how a small gift with incredible foresight on the part of her parents can grow to provide seeds of new life for innumerable people for generations to come. Thank you, Vida and Lynn, for your example!

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## Gifts in Action

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### Harbor House seeks Matching Gifts to Provide Second Facility *Your Gift May be Doubled!*

Harbor House Crisis Shelters (HHCS) is a ministry of Faith United Methodist Church in Superior, Wisconsin. Our mission is to provide safe, hospitable shelter for homeless women and families. Our goal is to assist our guests in attaining housing. HHCS has provided over 1,450 people with shelter since opening in 2001. Over the past seven years, our partnership with The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation has provided parenting and spiritual resources for our homeless shelter sites. This partnership has enabled HHCS to provide information and support to 725 adults - which we could not serve without this funding.



Harbor House is expanding its services in 2008 by adding a Transitional Living Center (TLC) which will be an apartment building for homeless families in Superior. HHCS is currently raising funds for this project, with an exciting twist. The DeAtley Family Foundation is willing to match funds raised by **June 30, 2008**, up to \$165,000. So far – HHCS has raised \$108,000 in cash and pledges, including a grant from the Superior Rotary Club. Our hope is that we will be able to reach this match challenge, expand our services and continue to faithfully serve the homeless women and families in our community.

*Gifts to the Transitional Living Center may be made through the Wisconsin UM Foundation. Or, please send your gifts directly to: Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner, Executive Director, HHCS, 1531 Hughitt Ave., Superior, WI 54880*

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### Coffee House Raises Money for Area Missions

A NEW Folk-Pop Music Series called Java Notes ~ Concerts for a Better Community, funded through a grant from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, premiered in Sun Prairie in January 2008. Java Notes features outstanding musical performances by professional folk-pop artists from around the country in a coffeehouse atmosphere. Funds raised from admissions and donations at each concert are used to help people in need, through local nonprofit partners in Dane County. Concerts are held the second Saturday of each month from January through May, and September through November.



Our nonprofit partners have a far reach, touching the lives of youth, families, homeless residents, those living in poverty, and residents with serious health

issues. The events provide entertainment that fosters community and friendship, while being structured around a good cause. This presents a win-win situation for everyone involved. Performances are held at the Sun Prairie United Methodist Church located at 702 North Street, Sun Prairie (5 miles North of Madison). Fair trade coffee, hot chocolate and desserts are served. More information on the series and performers is available on [www.javanotes.org](http://www.javanotes.org).

The concerts start at 8:00 p.m. The April concert, featuring Joe Jencks and Helena Nash (D.P. Knudten opening), will benefit Habitat for Humanity, in conjunction with the building of a Habitat triplex in Sun Prairie.

You are invited to come enjoy the music while providing for those in need in Dane County.

## Charitable Gift Opportunities

### *You can make Multiple Gifts of Joy and Peace through a Charitable Gift Annuity*

Rev. Stan Strosahl, former Executive Director of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, often adds the words **“Joy and Peace”** to the end of his letters and emails to family and friends. Recently he and his wife Phyllis established a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation to share joy and peace with others for years to come.



Stan and Phyllis have been in love for the last 72 years. They met in church as youngsters and have been together ever since. On June 25, 2008, they will celebrate 64 years of marriage! Their Charitable Gift Annuity provides them with a way to celebrate the joy and peace they experience in various aspects of their life together.

For the rest of their lives, Stan and Phyllis will receive a joint annuity payment of 8.1% of their gift. At the time the second of the two of them dies, 10% of the balance in their annuity account will remain in the Foundation’s annuity reserve account. Five different charitable beneficiaries will receive a gift from the remaining 90%:

- × The Minister’s Insurance Memorial Fund, which Stan and Phyllis helped start in 1998.
- × Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, which is Stan’s alma mater.
- × Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary from

which 9 family members have graduated over the years.

- × Oakwood Village East in Madison, where Stan and Phyllis plan to enjoy living for the rest of their lives.
- × The United Methodist Church in Sun Prairie to give thanks for the congregation that has been their “church home” since 1974.

The gifts Stan and Phyllis are making to the Sun Prairie UMC will establish a Permanent Scholarship Fund to assist college graduates pursuing further degrees. They will also provide funds to secure special speakers for adult gatherings, to purchase music for “The Singing Churchmen,” and to provide altar flowers on the Sunday preceding June 25<sup>th</sup> for their wedding anniversary the first ten years following their deaths.

Stan and Phyllis encourage you to consider establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity in order to share the joy you have experienced from participating in specific ministries. A Charitable Gift Annuity can be established through the Foundation for **\$2,000 or more**. The annuity rate is determined by the age of the annuitant(s) – to the nearest birthday – at the time the donor(s) create the Charitable Gift annuity.

Contact Bill Helwig or Jean Ehnert Nicholas at 1-888-903-9863 to determine how a Charitable Gift Annuity might be advantageous to you.

#### CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES

(valid rates through June 30, 2008)

##### One Life

##### Two Lives

Age 60	5.7%	Ages 60 & 60	5.4%
Age 65	6.0%	Ages 65 & 65	5.6 %
Age 70	6.5%	Ages 70 & 70	6.1%
Age 75	7.1%	Ages 75 & 75	6.3%
Age 80	8.0%	Ages 80 & 80	6.9%
Age 85	9.5%	Ages 85 & 85	7.9%
Age 90+	11.3%	Ages 90 & 90	9.3%



*The Rev. Bruce Bartel hangs a plaque at the Bishop Rader Retreat Center at Pine Lake to honor the gift of Bob Adams, given in memory of his wife, Jeanne Nall Adams. A gift was originally given for the purpose of supporting work or projects which further adult Christian Education efforts in Wisconsin. In looking at the future it was decided the most effective place for this gift was helping underwrite the completion of the Rader Retreat Center providing a wonderful setting for adult education and retreats.*

*President's letter - Continued from Page 1*

And we take our faith walk with more seriousness when challenged.

Second, those of us who manage church resources are comforted by our more cautious approach to investments. Our vision at the Foundation is always "long term". We don't panic in these tough investment climates because we intentionally instruct our portfolio managers to follow practices which choose quality equities with underlying value that adhere to the social principles of our church. We limit the risk levels that we are willing to assume. We avoid speculation and quick profits. We try to manage for all seasons because we believe the church will be around for a long, long time.

Do your best to be faithful and true to your calling.

Rev. William F. Helwig  
President

## WUMF Offers:

**Investment** Service for local United Methodist Churches. We provide a careful and conservative investment approach for church money, competitive returns, accountability, and permanency.

**Capital** Campaign Fundraising Services done in two phases; Pre-Campaign Evaluation Study followed by the Intensive Phase.

**Endowment** Services for churches to develop permanent funds and raise awareness of how contributing to these funds can enrich ministries.

**Mortgage** Loans designed for qualifying churches, offering low interest rates and flexible terms.

**Grants** to churches or agencies for developing new and creative ministries throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

**Planned** Giving Services to individuals so they can make a lasting impact on ministries that are important to them. When meeting with individuals, our first question is, "What are your goals?"

**Stewardship** Services to help congregations develop a year-round stewardship program that will secure the financial resources required to continue and expand ministries.

**Training** to create a year-round wills, memorials, and estate planning program in your church.

**Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation**  
**750 Windsor Street, Suite 305**  
**PO Box 620**  
**Sun Prairie WI 53590-0620**

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## Clergy Stewardship Retreat Offered

The Foundation and the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries are joining together to sponsor a 2008 financial stewardship retreat for clergy at Pine Lake Camp. Use this time to help choose an Annual Stewardship Campaign. Gain insights from clergy who have used various programs. Form answers to these questions:

- « What kind of leadership does this campaign require?
- « What will my planning time be?
- « How much will it cost the church?
- « How can I present the basics of percentage giving and tithing?
- « What are the advantages of a year round stewardship program vs. an annual campaign?
- « What does it mean to be a pastoral leader in the campaign?

The principles of financial stewardship will be discussed in a casual, retreat setting with some time planned for reflection or a walk in the woods. This camp has been created as a response to clergy sharing at the 2007 Listening Sessions.

Camp will be held from Wednesday, August 20 to Thursday, August 21 from Noon to Noon at Pine Lake. The cost is \$28 for double occupancy and \$55.50 for single. To register call Kimberly at 1-877-WIS-CAMP or see [www.WisconsinUMC.org/camps](http://www.WisconsinUMC.org/camps) for on-line registration.