

What's Up?

St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program Newsletter

September 2004

*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 Slovakian Mission

Slovak Faith, Already Strong

Nine high school teenagers – accompanied by a handful of adults -- recently traveled on a two-week mission trip to the small country of Slovakia. Their mission: *spread the word of God*. Not long after the end of communist rule, the youth encountered people of faith, full of enthusiasm and growing stronger. The youth encountered generosity and friendship at every turn, from their stays as guest of families in small towns and rural farms to their time with local youth, despite the challenges of different languages. And they returned that generosity in kind, working to install electricity in a new youth center. The St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Fund provided financial support for the mission trip.



Slovakia Team – Deb Johnson, Leader (2nd row 4th from left) and Will Barnard (3rd row 3rd from left) from S. Mark's.

William Barnard writes about his experiences:

Imagine if someone approached you out of thin air and said that they'd like to invite you on a trip to spread God's word to people who don't even speak your own language. Oh, and you're a high school teenager who has no comprehension of the country, the people, or their lives. Deep breaths....Our mission: spread the word of God to a fledgling Lutheran country that was recently released from the stranglehold of communism.

One of our best experiences was with the people of Puchov and their local youth group. I felt like I was back in my own youth group at Saint Mark's ... neither side even paying heed to any sort of language barrier. We connected as brothers and sisters in Christ. Second was our experience as guests. We were treated as friends by all whom we met. The people whose faith touched me the most were Stano and Eva. They open the doors of their home to anyone in need. They feed the local youth whenever needed, and give a bed and shower to anyone who should require one. A good friend of theirs, Marek, is helping to organize the on-going construction of the Velky Slavkov Youth Centre. We visited the center, and put in two days of hard manual labor. The Christian love and labor put forth by Stano, Eva, and Marek is known throughout Slovakia.

Slovakia only needs the funds with which to feed the starving spiritual stomachs of their people. I would like to pursue the possible allocation of funds for such programs as the Velky Slavkov Youth Centre within the country of Slovakia.

Michigan Mission Trip

If it's summer, it is time for Mission Trip! This year, 8 youth and 2 adults found room in a van for themselves and their gear and headed to Michigan on a work trip to those with more needs than resources. With financial assistance from the St. Michaels Fund, these youth joined hundreds from around the country for a week of hammering, sawing, sanding, and painting – with occasional boat rides and (See page 2)

Grants for Lutheran Summer Camp

Five children received camp grants as a result of the May Jo Carlson Family gift to the Endowment. Because of this gift, the Fund continues to encourage attendance at Lutheran summer camps by offering a \$50 Carlson Family Scholarship's to children in the congregation and local community to attend one camping session each summer. Participating Lutheran camps in the area include Caroline Furnace, located near Luray, VA, and Mar-Lu Ridge, near Frederick, MD. Contact Brian Stevenson on (703) 451-4331 for information about the 2005 camps.

Emily Carlson writes:

Mission Trip 2004 to Farwell, Michigan was similar to other programs of past years, yet in some ways was completely new and unfamiliar. My crew had an easy task of repainting the back porch, window and door trim, and do some yard work for an elderly couple who lived with their daughter. The family lived right on a lake, and every day we were lucky to be able to go on a boat ride. A few days we even went swimming in our clothes! About a month after returning home I received a letter from my residents thanking me for all the work we had done on their house. Every work camp is different, and each time we leave feeling something greater than before. It's an amazing experience, and I'm lucky to be able to go every year.

Michigan Mission Trip – from page 1.

lakeside dips. Thanks to Ben Hatcher, Will Barnard, Joel Peterson, Emily Carlson, Dana Essick, Christine Swann, Stephanie Rosholt, Kacy Dillon, Brian Stevenson, and Terri Cobb for living the gospel!



Bryce Mountain Time Share Available

Could you use a week of total relaxation and fun? A wonderful 3 bedroom, 2 bath time share on the slopes of Bryce Mountain was gifted to the St Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Fund and is now available for purchase or rent. Time share weeks can be exchanged for comparable periods at the Chalet High or other resorts worldwide. Call Dan Ancona (703) 256-0299 or Kay Graff (703) 725 5276 for more information.

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, 2004, the total value of the Fund increased \$7,409 from last year, to \$74,360, including gains on principal and accumulated earnings. The managing Board consists of Dan Ancona (Chairman), Nancy Mower (Recording Secretary), Steven Carlson (Treasurer), Fred Shellhammer, Mary Lou Carroll, Mary Veraa, 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, outreach, and special situations; or otherwise affirm Christ to the youth of the community, nation, or world. Typical uses of funds to date have included scholarships, tuition assistance, conference fees, domestic and international youth ministries expenses. Requests for loans or grants should be submitted in writing to the Fund Board through the St. Mark's 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 decisions for the distribution of earnings. Recent Distributions included:

World Hunger Relief	\$500
Carlson Family Camper Scholarships	350
Mar-Lu Ridge Camp Hurricane Recovery	150
Michigan Youth Mission Trip	700
Slovakia Mission Trip	300
Seminary Scholarship	250
Goshen Scout Reservation Chaplain Services	250
Hispanic Ministry Guitars	146
2004 Total	\$2,646

Endowing the Endowment Funds:

Last year marked the beginning of the St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program's 50th Anniversary Challenge: a permanent endowment of \$5,000,000 to support youth mission and ministry at St. Mark's and beyond. The dream is large, and the challenges are many. But the reward is great in expanded and enhanced ministry to the youth of our congregation and community. There are many ways you can make a bequest or donation to the St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment fund, including cash donations and bequests in the form of stocks, bonds, property, life insurance or other. 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