

THE FOUNDATION



A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

From the President: Market reflections



Greetings from the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. As you watch the news and read the daily headlines, it is hard to ignore the market fluctuations and talk of a recession. The events in the financial world over the past year have certainly been difficult to experience.

We always know market losses are possible, and the Foundation works diligently to maintain a diversified investment strategy to invest the hard earned dollars donors entrust to us for the work of our church.

The wild swings and market losses are real and painful. The events of the past few months might have been predictable, but not with any certain timing. The Foundation will continue with our long-term investment strategies. We believe our investment portfolios are positioned to do very well when this market eventually moves forward. We also trust God to be our guide and not make us fearful about the tools and dollars we need

to do ministry.

One of our wise Foundation trustees continues to remind me, "We do not make the market; we just participate in it." We have seen significant negative market returns in the past, and we have always rebounded after the market turmoil runs its course. We have no reason to believe this time will be any different.

These are trying times for us and maybe even you, as asset values decline substantially in retirement and investment accounts. However, we continue to focus on what is ahead: keeping endowment and investment dollars working hard for the church.

We invite you to review our updated investment information on our web site. We will also continue to sow seeds with our faithful United Methodist brothers and sisters who share our vision of ministry, both now and for future generations. Together, with God's help, we will make it through this tough time.

Thank you for your dedication and support for the Foundation. I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas season.

Bill Junk, Foundation President

Ministry gives mothers and children hope

Pearl Opel Thorpe had a dream to provide a place for women and children while in a transitional phase of their life. Whether homeless or abused, these women would not have to be separated from their children to receive help and support.

Thorpe left her entire estate to the Foundation with provisions for her alma mater, the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha and the Tulsa Garden Center, but the largest portion established an endowment fund to fulfill her dream of establishing a women's center for the Tulsa area.

After much planning and coordination,



A cottage at the Francis E. Willard Ministry Center in Tulsa houses Pearl's Hope, a ministry for women and children.

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Gift Planning: year-end giving



Life insurance: The forgotten gift

By David Battles,
Executive Vice President

Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need? Perhaps your assets have grown to provide the protection you require, and the insurance policy has been forgotten. Maybe the reason you originally purchased

the policy no longer exists. For instance, you may have purchased the policy to provide for your children's education...and they now have children of their own.

Did you know the policy could make a wonderful charitable gift to your favorite United Methodist cause?

Instead of giving cash or stock, you could sign over your policy to the Foundation, and generally speaking, receive a charitable income tax deduction for

the replacement value of the policy (or the cost basis if less). We will cash in the policy and put those dormant dollars to work by establishing an endowment fund at the Foundation to support your favorite ministry or local church. The endowment could be in your name or you could honor someone else.

If you have insurance you would like to contribute, or if you are currently paying premiums on a policy and want to discover how this policy might work as a gift, please contact us. We will be pleased to meet with you and describe the various ways insurance can be used prudently to make a planned gift.

We also have a complimentary brochure for you on *Gifts of Insurance*. You may request it by calling the Foundation or e-mailing me at dbattles@okumf.org.

Give now and get cash back for life

Get money back and receive a tax deduction with certain gifts.

Most people are surprised when they first learn they can give to a non-profit organization and get cash back. Not only can you support causes important to you, but you may also receive valuable tax savings, capital gains benefits and income for life.

It is easier than you think to make a life income gift, and there is still time to receive tax advantages this year.

Gift Annuity

One of the simplest ways to make a gift and receive cash back is a charitable gift annuity. A gift annuity is a contract between you and the Foundation, where you make a gift and we agree to pay you fixed payments for life at a rate based on your age. You will receive an income tax deduction for your gift and may even avoid capital gains tax on a gift of your appreciated property.

Charitable Remainder Trust

Like a gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust (CRT) provides you with a current tax deduction, capital gains tax savings, and fixed or variable income. You can fund a CRT with securities, real estate or other types of properties. Call the Foundation for help selecting the plan that is right for you.

Whether a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust appeals to you, now is the perfect time to act. The last few weeks of the year offer you the opportunity to accurately assess your financial successes and needs, and prepare for the New Year that is about to begin. Call David Battles to discuss any of these or other ways of giving so we can help you get the most from your year-end gift.

A new use for *appreciated assets*

The end of the year is a time to be out with the old and in with the new. If you find that some of your assets are beginning to own you rather than you owning them, it may be time to see how they can work for you. A gift to your favorite United Methodist cause this time of year is a good place to start.

Real Estate

Real estate makes an excellent investment. But, if maintenance or simply the worry of holding onto it is making you question its worth, it may be time to consider using your real estate as a gift. It can be given

outright by deed or placed in a trust that can turn it into cash and create tax benefits for you as well.

Other Property

Almost anything of value can be contributed to a worthy cause. Jewelry, cars, boats and planes may be used to create an endowment fund for your local church and provide you with valuable tax benefits. Your IRA or life insurance policy may also offer benefits worth exploring.

Call David Battles at the Foundation to learn how we can help



you make more from your property. That stock, farm or beach house can be put to work for you and help support ministry for generations to come. It may be the end of the year, but it is never too late to begin a new use for old property.

Extravagant generosity



By Dr. Mark Dorff, Director of Church Relations, Tulsa Office

“Extravagant generosity,” used by Bishop Robert Schnase, describes one of the five characteristic practices of faithful congregations.

Extravagant generosity in the face of declining markets and growing deficits suggests being seriously out of touch with the world around us; or deeply in love with God who created us and Jesus Christ who gave his life for us. One of the joys of working with the Foundation is connecting with persons and congregations whose core values reflect spiritual maturity represented by extravagant generosity. One of our privileges is helping them express their maturity in specific ways today, tomorrow and forever.

News media and many web sites report a majority of Americans are afraid of the economic future. But, those who tithe (and go beyond the tithe) are a witness to the certainty that God is good, all the time. Repeatedly, I hear those mature stewards affirm the joy, meaning and peace they experience as they participant in ministries

transforming lives and missions bringing people to Christ.

I recently met with one pastor who is asking his congregation to make a commitment to tithing or take a step-up in proportional giving for the church’s ministry and mission as opposed to making a pledge to the budget. His question to his congregation is not, “*What can you do for the Church?*” It is, “*Prayerfully... what will God do in this community and his world through you?*”

A local church finance secretary reported their youth director led a workshop on money and Christian commitment. Wow! Youth, one of the largest target populations for the retail industry, were challenged to see the relationship between their faith and their spending.

The Foundation is committed to helping faithful disciples mature in their stewardship of God’s gifts, and be extravagantly generous in their current and planned giving. The Foundation stands ready to assist your church through seminars, visits with church trustees and promotional materials and brochures.

Dr. Dorff works with pastors and local church leaders in Eastern Oklahoma to develop and cultivate endowment programs.

Celebrating three Foundation friends

The Foundation recently lost three special friends. Dr. Robert Kamm passed away October 10; Don Cook passed away October 18; and Katherine "Cissy" Parker passed away September 18.

Dr. Kamm and Mr. Cook served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees for many years and provided guidance and expertise to the Board. Cissy and her husband Bob were past recipients of the Foundation's Jim Egan Legacy Award.

Dr. Kamm served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1994 and as chairman of the Board for five years. He was a senior member on the Board until 2006.

"Dr. Kamm brought stability and confident leadership to the Foundation during his term as chairman," recalled Bill Junk, Foundation president.

"Through his leadership, he helped the Foundation advance its purpose and ministry. We owe a great debt of gratitude to him for his

years of friendship and dedicated service," he continued.

Originally from Iowa, Dr. Kamm and his late wife, Maxine made their home in Stillwater, where he was named Dean of Arts and Sciences at Oklahoma State University. He was later named vice president for academic affairs, and then served as president of the university until 1977. He continued his passion for teaching until retiring in 1987.

Dr. Kamm received numerous honorary degrees and was recognized for his many contributions and achievements. He authored several articles and books, and held positions of service and leadership for the City of Stillwater, the State of Oklahoma, Rotary International, YMCA, Boy Scouts of America and many more.

Don Cook served as a Foundation Trustee from 1981 to 1989. He chaired the planned giving committee for a number of years and helped institute January as Foundation Month in our Conference each year. He also served on the investment committee and worked closely with Foundation staff to select a new professional accounting system.

"Don was hands-on and volunteered to help anytime he could," said Junk.



Dr. Kamm, right, with Bishop Hardt and Bishop Solomon at a Foundation Board meeting.

Cook spent most of his adult life in Shawnee and co-founded Finley & Cook, a certified public accounting firm. He was dedicated to the success of his business and serving his community. He was a member of the Shawnee Airport Advisory Board and was very active at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday school for many years.

"He was a great friend to the Foundation and his local church, and he will be missed greatly," said Junk.

Cissy Parker and her husband Bob have been long-time friends of the Foundation. They were the 2006 recipients of the Foundation's Jim Egan Legacy Award. The award is given to individuals who are an example of philanthropy for the United Methodist Church. The Parkers have been generous in supporting the work and ministry of the Foundation.

Mrs. Parker was a life long Methodist. Her family founded the Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. After moving



Don Cook was very involved with the Foundation's Board of Trustees before he retired from the Board in 1989.

to Tulsa she became very active at Tulsa's First United Methodist Church. She and her husband were members of the Joyner Class and served in many leadership roles within the class. She also helped individuals and groups, including the youth choir and other Sunday school classes. She was past-president of her church's United Methodist Women and a Priscilla Circle leader.

"They say behind every man is a woman encouraging him on, and I believe Cissy was that for Bob," says Dr. Connie Cole Jeske, Executive Minister of Community and Volunteer Ministries at Tulsa First UMC. "We experienced her grace, joy, faithfulness and amazing strength every Sunday morning."

Mrs. Parker influenced many people throughout her lifetime. She cherished the time spent with her children, grandchildren and loved ones.

"Cissy's sweet and gentle spirit was such a gift. It was my privilege to know her. Her service to the church and



Cissy Parker (center) with her family at the Foundation's 2006 Cross & Flame Legacy Society luncheon where she and her husband were honored with the Jim Egan Legacy Award. Pictured from the left are Debra, Carol, Bob and Robert Jr.

Tulsa community will be long remembered," said Junk.

Each of these friends will be greatly missed. The Foundation is grateful for their faithfulness and dedication to the Foundation and the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference.

Mothers, continued from page 1

Circle of Care opened Pearl's Hope in late September at the Francis E. Willard Ministry Center in Tulsa. Five women and 17 children moved into the Pearl's Hope program.

"For some of these women, it is the nicest house they have ever lived in," says program director Julia

McDonald.

"For people who are homeless, every day is a survival day. We can help give them things they have not had in a long time—like an alarm clock to get up in the morning and get the kids off to school, gas for their car, and even diapers," she continued.

Circle of Care hopes to expand the program by renovating another cottage on the campus. The second cottage will house another five or six families, and the waiting list is already full.

Pearl's Hope is a six-month structured program. The women who apply must be employable, sober, and legal custodians of their children. During the day the mothers are expected to work, seek employment, or attend training.

"It is so rewarding to see a donor's wishes come true. Pearl's Hope is exactly what Opel wanted," said David Battles, Foundation executive vice president. Battles worked closely with Thorpe for many years while she carefully crafted her estate plan.



Pearl's Hope Director Julia McDonald gives David Battles a tour of the facility.

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Celebrate the New Year early!

The end of the year is special. It is the season of tradition and spending time with family and loved ones. It offers moments of reflection and looking ahead to the New Year. Perhaps because of these sentiments, many people choose to make gifts to their favorite United Methodist causes in this season. If you have not yet done so, it is not too late.

In the final weeks of the year you can better assess your year-end financial picture and estimate the year ahead. Gifts you make this year can give you an income tax deduction and will also help continue the work of your favorite United Methodist ministry.

Gifts of cash are always helpful and the easiest way to give. Savvy donors almost always donate appreciated assets, such as stock, by transferring them to the Foundation for the benefit of their local United Methodist church or beloved ministry. By giving before year-end, you can receive an income tax deduction and avoid paying capital gains tax that might otherwise be due if the asset were sold.

Some gifts have financial rewards for you, too. Charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities offer payments back to you for life. They also offer some very favorable tax benefits.

Join with others who find this season a perfect time to give back. Not only will you be saving taxes and perhaps starting a lifetime stream of income, but most significantly, you will be helping the ministries important to you.

