



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Connecting the Dots!

Those of us who do gift planning seem to take special interest in news accounts of large charitable gifts. Normally, such articles elicit feelings of joy for both those who received and those who gave.

Recently, however, while reading of a couple from a rural Nebraska community gifting their entire \$2 million estate to an out-of-state university for the purpose of what the newspaper article said



was to “fund a scholarship”, I couldn’t help but wonder why a couple who had owned a business that was supported totally by local

residents for 35 years, would choose to overlook the possibilities that existed in their own community had their gift remained at “home”. And I wondered if their church had done all that it could, and should, to generate enthusiasm in the hearts of that couple for the church’s current ministry and its vision for the future.

When we think about all of the good that a local community, or any one if its serving arms such as its churches, hospitals, libraries, public and private schools, and

other service agencies can provide, and we measure the impact of such services on the ability of that community to meet the needs of its citizens, both now and in the future, it is paramount that each of us work together and encourage each other to give back to the communities that provided us the opportunity to be all that we could be.

But it is also important that we, as the Church, along with the other institutions and organizations, have a clear and well-communicated vision of what it is that we want, and need, to be in order to serve the needs of our community, and what is required of us if we are to be successful. Too often, perhaps, we fail to connect the dots between those who have needs and those who have both the resources and the desire to serve those needs. Too often, the reasons that these needs and opportunities go unfulfilled are the lack of a vision and plan or, to “borrow a line” from the Paul Newman movie, Cool Hand Luke, “What we have is a failure to communicate”.

In recent years, several of our United Methodist churches have been blessed with substantial bequests that will forever impact their vision and ministry. Such gifts have given these churches the opportunity to **react** to these blessings by doing their visioning after the fact. Unfor-

tunately, too many gifts leave local communities and churches because their is a lack of **proactive** visioning, planning, and communicating.

It costs nothing to dream, but the payoff for those who do can be staggering in terms of all the good that can be accomplished. It’s important that we allow ourselves to dream, and that we encourage others to see and share in making those dreams become reality.

Blessings,

Jim Heller
Executive Director

To learn more about Planned Gifts, Investment Services, Scholarships, or other Foundation services, please contact us at 402-323-8844 or 877-495-5545. You can also reach us at info@numf.org, www.numf.org, or complete and return this form. Your gift in support of the Foundation’s work is appreciated. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Church: _____ Church Phone: _____

I/we would like more information about: _____

Please: Call E-mail Send Information Schedule a visit
 A gift to help support the Foundation’s work is enclosed.

Mail to: The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
100 W. Fletcher Ave., Ste. 100 • Lincoln, NE • 68521

*The mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation is to **support** the ministries of the local church and the Nebraska Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church through the **development** of gifts and the **stewardship** of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God’s work.*

“EVERYTHING I HAVE ARE BLESSINGS”



Harlan Wyrick, a member of McCook UMC remembers when a student told him about the “difficult” jobs he didn’t want to do for a career, but thought he’d like to be a pastor. “I thought, ‘Oh my’, that’s one of the hardest jobs there is”.

After graduating from Ord Senior High School at age 16, he enrolled in Kearney State College where he graduated in 1941 with

a double major in chemistry and biology. He taught in Bertrand, NE for one year prior to enlisting in the navy in 1941. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in February 1946.

Following discharge he attended the University of California at Davis for one semester and joined Shell Oil Co in September 1946 as a herbicide specialist. While there, he and two other Shell chemists were granted a patent on Plant Growth Regulants. This discovery was totally dependent on the technique of soil application of the chemical (rather than plant application). This is now known as “pre-emergent treatment.”

Following a successful career with Shell, Harlan returned to Nebraska to teach school and help his parents with their farming operation. From 1953 to 1955 Harlan taught at Oxford and in 1955 transferred to McCook High School. In 1957 he was granted a one year “leave of absence” to secure a master’s degree from Oklahoma State University. He returned to the high school for one year and moved to the McCook Junior College in 1959. While at McCook College, he worked to insure the transfer of credits of all of

the college’s science classes to four year institutions. Harlan was very active in the improvement of McCook College through curriculum expansion, assisting in promotion of increased building construction and improving public image. He resigned from McCook College in 1976 and retired from farming in 1982.

Mabelle Westerbeck of Arapahoe and Harlan were married in 1960. After retiring, they traveled extensively in the U.S., wintering in Arizona. Mabelle passed away in 1999.

Harlan and Alvina Becker of McCook, a family friend for 20 years, were married in 2000. They moved to Kearney in 2004. During their time in Kearney, Alvina passed away. Harlan returned to McCook in 2010 and has been a member of a Methodist Church (Indianola, McCook and Kearney) for over 60 years.

“I don’t own anything. We are all blessed with air to breath, the beauty of the earth to see and walk around on. Everything I have are blessings I’ve received and am to be a steward of during my time on earth. We can only do the things God allows us to do. People sometimes talk about “lucky Harlan”, but I have been so blessed.”

Harlan has made arrangements in his estate planning to set up a permanent endowment fund for theology students who are members of the Nebraska Annual Conference and who intend to serve the Conference following their graduation.

“Ministry is a most difficult calling,” says Harlan, “and I want to encourage and support those who want to answer this calling however I can.” We are blessed to have Harlan in our lives.

DEAR LORD, HELP ME TO FIND MY LAUGHTER TODAY!

Laughter - that daily requirement for good mental health - is a gift from God. It’s healing and it makes us feel younger. That is why I try and find a “little bit of humor” in each day. Sometimes it is easier said than done, but what a difference a smile can make within you or someone else.



I am not a morning person contrary to what my four-legged “children” seem to think. For them, late morning is 6:00 a.m. seven days a week. Lizzie usually pounces on me and Sidney just comes to the top of the bed and pulls my hair. For them, the day has started and I better be ready for it. I enjoy the quiet of the morning, but to be sociable to other human beings is another issue and usually doesn’t happen until around 10:00 a.m. It is especially on those days that I ask aloud, “What’s funny today, Lord? Please help me find some humor in this day, so I don’t become “the office crank.”

Laughter lifts our spirits and may even be heart healthy, according to medical studies. One expert said such research confirms the old axiom that “laughter is the best medicine.” Those experts could have saved a lot of time, to say nothing of thousands of research dollars, if they had just read Proverbs 17:22, where that “old axiom” comes from: “A joyful heart is good medicine”. It’s nice when modern science confirms what God told us ages ago.

Our laughing muscles, science tells us, become stronger with exercise. But a titter or a chuckle, or, just saying “ha ha,” is like doing an occasional sit-up. What we need are more good, hearty laughs, but how? Try installing more mirrors in the house. Nothing tickles the funny bone like the sight of you taking yourself too seriously.

Ask God to show you what’s funny and He will. He invented laughter and designed us to benefit from it. He made it good medicine. Laugh heartily and often. Develop a low joy threshold.

While you’re smiling, remember the big picture. God also gave us the key to lasting contentment. While we’re living this life, coping with changes, the key is to “fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

As I begin to look less in the mirror, which is all about me, the more I will notice other people. The less attention I pay to my wrinkles, aches and pains, the more attention I’ll pay to what really matters in the grand scheme of things. Who can I encourage with a phone call or a note? Who needs a laugh? Who needs comfort? Who needs prayer? With whom can I share my blessings - my time, my money and my energy?

Renewed daily by God’s generosity, renewed daily by laughter and renewed daily with an anointing of the “oil of joy” (Hebrews 1:9) can quietly calm the downtrodden spirit.

Anita B. Crisp
Director of Communications and Donor Relations

SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED!

The Foundation Board of Directors named the following applicants as recipients of scholarships for 2010:

- **Zach Anderson** - The Alice Kruse Ministerial Scholarship
- **Michelle Byerly** - The Andrew & Nevabelle Howe Scholarship, The Rev. Albert Winseman Scholarship, and the NUMF “Gifts From the Heart” Scholarship
- **Janice Farrell** - The Scahill Family Scholarship
- **Douglas Gahn** - The Verl & Sylvia Miller Memorial Scholarship and The Cal Leeds Ministerial Scholarship
- **Lindsey Hall** - NUMF “Gifts From the Heart” Scholarship, Atherton Memorial Scholarship, and The Alice Kruse Seminary Scholarship
- **Trudy Hanke** - The Cowles UMC Memorial Scholarship
- **Bonnie McCord** - Alva Clark Seminary Scholarship and The Baldwin F. & Amy L. Kruse Scholarship
- **William Williams** - The Albert R. Murdoch Ministerial Scholarship

The Foundation is pleased to be able to provide financial assistance to these current and future NE Annual Conference pastors on behalf of the donors and their families. We offer our best wishes to these students for the year 2010 - 2011.

We would also like to say a special “thank you” to the donors for making these scholarships available and helping these individuals make their dreams a reality.

Board Members and Officers Elected

At its Annual Meeting on June 11th, the members of the Foundation elected the following Board members:

Rev. Cathy Cole, Ainsworth (1st Term)
Randy Fleming, Springfield (2nd Term)
Rev. Dr. Janice Japp, Omaha (1st Term)
Sandy Lozier, Omaha (2nd Term)

At its July 27th meeting, the Foundation’s Board of Directors elected the following members as its officers:

Chair - R. David Wilcox, Lincoln
Vice-Chair - Lynn Flaming, Elsie
Secretary - Sandy Lozier, Elkhorn
Treasurer - Doug Skiles, McCook

We would like to thank all of our Board members for their leadership and service.



A smile is the light
in the window of your face
that tells people that
your heart is at home.

- Anonymous

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