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- Constance Richardson  
*Executive Director*
- Clarence Burton  
*Treasurer & Administrative Director*



**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."*

## It Takes A Village

*By Lois Mather*

**I**t takes a village plus a church to make God's love real for today's youth. Forty two of St. Paul's youth and nine mentoring adults were the recipients of St. Paul's UMC Foundation funds for bus transportation to Cass Lake, Minnesota to serve the Ojibwe people.

While at Cass Lake, the youth stepped up to the challenges before them, putting shelves in a library at the Boys and Girls Club, building new decks for two families, and holding Vacation Bible School for Ojibwe children. The bus allowed the youth to hide the "extreme makeover" of a deck from Ilasenn, one of the home owners. Ilasenn was overcome with emotion when she saw her new deck complete with new deck furniture.



St. Paul's youth built decks on two homes.



Helping the Ojibwe people was a positive experience for St. Paul's youth.

The new deck at Andi's home is a wonderful space for her family. Prayers and blessings were offered by the youth for the two families and their decks.

The youth heard faith stories from the Ojibwe people plus built positive relationships with the youngsters and the adults. St. Paul's youth grew in faith and self confidence as they served as Christ's hands, feet, and heart in mission to others.

## Refurbished Youth Spaces Serve St. Paul's Youth Well

*By Lois Mather*

What do a carpet ball table, a back lighted cross, surround sound, and a kitchen have in common?

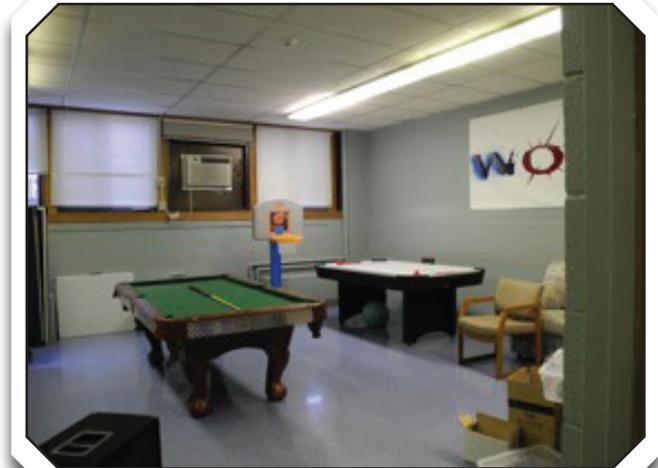
Answer: St. Paul's youth space. Over fifty youth per week enjoy the refurbished rooms thanks to the Speicher Youth Fund and St. Paul's trustees.

The main youth room with its central cross, circle of comfortable chairs, and convenient kitchenette encourages youth to stay awhile. The surround sound and screen allow the youth to experience multimedia presentations. The youth game room offers opportunity fun interactions in a Christian setting whether in a carpet ball game, an air hockey competition, or a casual game of pool.

Through the use of the youth rooms, students are connected to St. Paul's and to Christ. Thanks to the gifts to the Speicher Youth Fund, St. Paul's youth have an inviting space where they can connect with each other and with Christ.



Comfortable seating encourages conversation and sharing.



Game room space allows a mix of youth activities.

## 2015 Scholarship Awards

The St. Paul's UMC Foundation has awarded ten scholarships to St. Paul's youth this year, totaling \$11,500, to the following individuals:

### **St. Paul's Scholarship - \$1,250 each**

*Alicia Aguiar  
Mary Azelborn  
Emily DeJong  
Emily Feltes  
Sarah Lodge  
Grace Ridnour*

### **Fran & Stan Richardson Scholarship - \$1,000**

*Hannah Lodge*

### **R. J. & Grace Noonan Scholarship - \$500**

*Taylor Miller*

### **Dr. Mary E. Wilson Scholarship - \$1,000**

*Taylor Miller*

### **Chuck Patton Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500**

*Jackson Sanor*

In addition, one \$450 scholarship has been awarded to a graduating senior by each of the public high schools in the Cedar Rapids Metro area, made possible by a gift from Leola Clark. This fund is administered by the Foundation and recipients are chosen by the counseling staffs at each school.

## Fulfilling Our Purpose and Mission

*By Clarence Burton*

The sole purpose of the Foundation is to support the mission and ministries of St. Paul's Church. Most issues of *The Messenger* contain articles telling how funds provided by the Foundation are being used to support various St. Paul's ministries. Other publications, most notably the Church's *Leader Newsletter*, have also periodically reported how funds entrusted to the Church Council are being used to further the Church's mission.

Recent funding from the Foundation to match special offerings from the congregation include support of the following ministries:

- 2014 Christmas Offering to Eliminate Ebola – \$10,000
- 2015 Easter Offering for Loaves & Fishes – \$10,274
- 2015 SPRINT Program – \$18,000
- 2015 Ingathering School & Health Kits – \$2,100



**Clarence Burton**

In addition, funding for the following has also been approved by the Church Council:

- Connection Center Construction – \$8,000
- Wesley Pilgrimage to England for Pastor Daniel Niyonzima – \$2,100
- Startup funding for a new Young Adult Christian Education Class – \$950
- Contemporary Worship Musical Instruments – \$3,769
- Parsonage redecorating and appliance replacement – \$8,500

As one reads about specific projects and ministries receiving funds, the financial impact is not always apparent, but together, the total support from the Foundation since 1993 is in excess of \$2,257,000. Of that total amount, approximately \$681,000 has been designated for specific purposes, including various mission projects, youth activities, the music program, capital improvements to church-owned property, the operational budget, scholarships, congregational care and others. The remaining \$1,576,000 is undesignated and has been used for various projects, purposes and ministries that fulfill the Church's mission.

In this way the Foundation is fulfilling its purpose of supporting activities of the Church that would not otherwise be funded.

## Planning Matters

**W**hile many churches struggle to meet basic expenses and either delay or scrap plans for special programs, new initiatives, timely mission work, or addressing building maintenance, St. Paul's is blessed with at least two bodies that make visioning not only exciting, but possible: a generous congregation and a robust foundation.

Relatively few Methodist churches in Iowa, or, indeed the United States, have had the foresight to create an endowment, establish sound policies to ensure its growth, and encourage active support from members.



**Connie Richardson**

However, thirty years ago, St. Paul's did just that, and now, with a steady stream of gifts from living members and estates, plus good stewardship and sound investment and distribution policies, St. Paul's Foundation distributes about a quarter million dollars each year. The bulk of the annual distribution is unrestricted and is under the direction of the Church Council, and about thirty restricted funds support capital projects, including the "Forward in Faith" initiatives, scholarships for St. Paul's members, the music program, missions, congregational care, the operating budget, Christian Education programs, and youth programs and facilities. Programs and projects approved by the Church

Council vary each year according to the strategic and immediate mission and ministry goals of the Church.

Operating the Foundation is not left to chance or whimsy. A dedicated board of directors meets regularly in committees (Investment, Outreach, Scholarship, and Planning) and as a full board to oversee all aspects of the Church's endowment. In the last issue of *The Messenger*, you met the newly elected members, and learned a little about them. When you get a chance, thank them and the other board members, listed on page one of *The Messenger*, for their service in this important ministry.

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St. Paul's Foundation continues to grow and serve the Church in larger ways because of the generosity of St. Paul's members. In this issue of *The Messenger*, we are pleased to let you know that the Foundation will benefit from the thoughtfulness and planning of:

**Don and June King**, who have made provision in their estate plans that will :  
add to the "Robert James (R. J.) and Grace Noonan Scholarship Fund  
add to the endowed fund that supports the church's general operating fund  
add to the general campership fund  
and **Marie Peeters**, who has made provisions for the Foundation in her estate.

If you would like to discuss how you can make a difference in the future of St. Paul' through a current or future gift to the Foundation, please contact Connie Richardson at [crichardson@stpaulsumc.org](mailto:crichardson@stpaulsumc.org). All inquiries are confidential.