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Changing Lives

Penn Central Conference



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Trinity, Waynesboro Changes Lives by Supporting Students

The members of Trinity, Waynesboro have long valued the importance of education - not only college and university degrees, but trade schools and community colleges as well. According to retired Pastor Emeritus Clay Moyer, in the 1960's the congregation decided to do something tangible about it. With money from endowments, the congregation set up two separate education funds to provide support to students seeking financial support for post-secondary education: a low interest educational loan program and a scholarship program.

Rev. Moyer noted that in setting up the scholarships, the criteria were carefully considered so that all students could qualify for an award. "We didn't want to just give scholarships to the students with the highest grades or who were the most talented," Moyer said. Instead, the church wanted to support the average student who might not qualify for scholarships elsewhere. For that reason, scholarships are provided, in part, based on students' characters and their involvement on their church community.

Since the early 1970's hundreds of Trinity's students, from teenagers right out of high school to adults returning to school after starting careers or having families, have benefited from the support. And the legacy started over 40 years ago still continues. Over the years, the amount has grown as individuals have endowed scholarships in memory or honor of loved ones. The interest earned from these gifts is awards to the students.

"Both my children have benefited from the scholarship program and the loan program," said Carol Mowen, Trinity's consistory president. "The scholarships provided cash needed for books, computers, and other expenses that Peter and Andrew needed when they started college, and the loans are part of our overall financing plan." Peter and Andrew were both active at Trinity and in the Penn Central Conference. They, like many of Trinity's youth who receive scholarships and loans, have a history of involvement in the local church.

The program is administered through an Education Fund Committee whose mission is to encourage members of Trinity to continue higher education and to grow within the realm of Christian Education. The amount available for scholarships each year varies, depending on the current value of the investments and the available interest. According to Patricia Shew, treasurer of the committee, \$18,000 in scholarship money was allocated to members pursuing higher education in 2010. In addition, the Education Fund Committee is currently helping 33 students pursue higher education with low interest rate loans. The balance of student loans as of December 31, 2010, was \$284,290.90.



These students received scholarships and loans that enabled them to pursue a post-secondary education.

What are your stories? How is your local church changing lives?

Have you started or changed something in your church that seems to be attracting new people to your worship service. Did you purchase a new resource or curriculum that is bringing new meaning to those in your church school or study? How are you changing lives in your part of Penn Central Conference? We want to hear from you and feature these stories in this publication "Changing Lives. Contact Brenda Waleff, Director of Communications with your stories and ideas. bwaleff@pccucc.org or 717-652-1560.

Changing Lives

German Pastor shows members her home country

Pastor Valeria Schmidt recently escorted a group from her two-church charge (St. Paul's, McConnellsburg and Trinity, Ft Loudon) to her homeland, Germany. They arrived in Dusseldorf and were met by Valeria's friend, Pastor Carsten Koerber of Thomas Church and their host families. They spent four days with these families and attended Bible study, visited the Thomas Church and enjoyed a reception and dinner hosted by members of the congregation. They visited Pastor Valeria's former church, Gustav-Adolf-Kirche, in Dusseldorf - Gerresheim.

They toured Dusseldorf and visited the Deaconess Institute Of Kaiserswerth, where the Deaconess Movement began. It became a

model for Deaconess work throughout the world. Florence Nightingale spent



McConnellsburg-Ft Loudon charge members' lives were changed by visiting Germany with their Pastor.

time with the Fliedner's before beginning her famous work in England. This Deaconess concept changed the entire image of nurses who were not held in high esteem in the 19th century. Their lifestyle

and work became part of the women's movement of modern times. Parish nursing today is a reincarnation of that movement.

In Berlin, they toured the Stadtmission an inner city mission with a homeless shelter, senior assisted living and programs for drug and alcohol addicts. Their mission is to conduct services in a way that people not churched could understand what is going on. (90% are unchurched with 5% Protestant and 5% Catholic.)

Although language posed a barrier, they found the people warm, friendly and were welcomed into their homes and lives. Coming from two different cultures, they were able to form lasting bonds and now have a much better understanding of Pastor Valeria's country. In October 2012, St Paul's and Trinity will welcome Pastor Carsten and his members to Pennsylvania.

What Does OCWM Mean? The second in a series of columns

By Ken Heasley

OCWM. These four letters can mean several things. Over the years the meaning has changed. Originally, OCWM meant **Our Christian World Mission**. As the UCC evolved and as our mission work frequently involved partnership with other faith traditions, OCWM was changed to **Our Churches Wider Mission**—different words to capture a more inclusive defining of the same mission. Over these past 50+ years in the UCC, other words have been associated with these letters. I invite you to ponder these letters and come up with some new associations.

OCWM – Our Church Wants Money. Well, it's true! We do not live in a barter economy. To do mission and to carry on ministry costs money. So—our church depends upon the monetary gifts of members for sustaining power. The reality is that many of our ministries today are possible because of the generosity of persons in the past. The Pension Boards, the former Boards for Homeland and World Ministries have been the blessed recipients of many legacies that continue to provide funds for ministries and mission. It is our responsibility now to carry on these ministries and missions and to add to them with our gifts.

OCWM – Opportunities for Children, Women, and Men. Those opportunities include a new appreciation for the spiritual gifts of generosity, compassion and service. Our gifts given, not out of guilt, but out of gratitude open all of life to new joys. Our gifts provide new opportunities for Children through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program. Our gifts provide new opportunities for Women through continued efforts to stop human trafficking, leadership development and community development in this country and in the world. Our gifts provide new opportunities for men in spiritual development and in developing community leaders.

Rev. Kenneth Heasley, Chair of the OCWM Ministries Team is retired, after serving churches in Ohio, Maryland and Pennsylvania. He has served on the United Church Board for World Ministries, traveled throughout Central America visiting ecumenical mission work, and has been a delegate to three General Synods.