

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIV No. 9
October 2009

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel's mission is to witness
to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community
and the world through discipleship and service.**

MY WALK IN FAITH

When Pastor suggested that I write about my walk of faith, I insisted that I couldn't write. But before long I told him I would try. (He obviously had more faith in me than I did!) I guess at this point I wouldn't want to disappoint him.

So, where do I start? I suppose the best place is the beginning. Two very loving parents raised my 5 siblings and me. We were taught to believe in our loving powerful God, as well as how to be good Christians. Mom and Dad had different ways of accomplishing those goals. Dad was a quiet man, but very loving. He spent time with us when he could, and took us on yearly vacations. However, he expected us to behave and always to love and respect our parents and each other. There was a certain amount of squabbling and arguing, as in most families. But we knew it was not right, and one way or another, Dad or sometimes Mom would let us know they didn't like that kind of behavior. We were and still are a very close family.

Since we lived across the street from our church, it was very difficult to have an excuse not to go to church every opportunity we had. It was

natural for us to stay involved as long as we lived there. And I have very many fond memories of my involvement. I was even 1 of 2 delegates to be sent to Leadership Training Camp. Imagine me, the quiet shy wallflower going to a leadership camp! I ended up having a wonderful time (even though I managed to get one of the worst cases of Poison Ivy I ever had). After we returned, to my dismay, we were asked to make a full report to the youth group! It was very difficult, but I survived it.

The first Pastor I remember was Rev. Knollman. He seemed very stern, but I remember him to be kind at the same time. His wife was one of my baptismal sponsors. When I was still young, a new Pastor took over at St. John's in Deshler. He made some changes, but I remember that change didn't come easy for the largely German congregation. Pastor Ehlen confirmed us on Reformation Sunday...not the usual time of year for confirmation. He felt that our class wasn't quite ready. We were not happy about that! I think we were more embarrassed about that declaration than anything else! As soon as I was confirmed, I started helping out with the Sunday School teaching, mostly as a helper, but once in a

while I was asked to teach the class. I remember that duty being very stressful for me. How did anyone think I could actually teach a class of 4th graders when I had trouble talking to *anyone* other than family! However, studying for those lessons seemed to put me in the right frame of mind. Now I can actually say that I was my sister-in-law's Sunday School teacher!

Shortly after my confirmation, a new parsonage resident, Pastor Ballas, came to be an important part of my life. My teenage years were confusing (as most are), and Pastor Ballas was there to help me through that. I regularly went across the street to "talk" to him when I was troubled by something. Many times he would tell my parents that our "talks" were mainly his talking and my listening. He always had a way of figuring out what was bothering me without my having to say a word. Those meetings were crucial to my Christian growth. As the years went by and I was married, I came to understand most of the teaching and advice I received from him. He is gone now, but I still think about a lot of the things we "discussed".

At the age of 19/20, I met the man I was to marry. I will spare you the story of how we met. But I will say it was not a marriage made in heaven, if there is such a thing. We didn't have the chance to date like most couples do. We had a long distance relationship. He was not a religious man, and I worried that it would become a problem. Before we were married he studied to become a member of the Lutheran church. I was happy about that because it was his decision and not something I convinced him to do.

Through our married years we tried to raise our 3 children to always keep a strong faith. I wanted them to have a good Christian upbringing to carry them through their lives. We joined a church that fostered that to the extent that we got involved in everything. From Sunday School Superintendent, to Fellowship meetings at our

house, to helping with the Nursery School. After the Pastor retired, and a new one came in, the church fell apart. We were forced to move on. We found another church where we again got very involved. Because of a series of incidents there, we were totally disillusioned and decided to move on again. Through all the changes, I felt I was missing something. I went to so many different churches in the next 4 months that I thought I would never find that faith again. Finally I went to a church where I was welcomed to such a degree that I felt at home. Even though it was not a Lutheran church, the teachings seemed pretty much the same, and I was beginning to feel that old faith coming back.

In the beginning of 2007, I was diagnosed with cancer and subsequently had surgery. That was followed by a 6-week period of radiation. Before I was completely finished with that, my husband passed away. My first emotion was anger. Why would God let all these things happen to me? But as I struggled with my emotions, I finished my radiation and then started 5 months of chemotherapy. However, during all these things that I had blamed God for, I had so many friends and family always there for me. They taught me to cherish what I had. With a lot of help from all of them in different forms, I was nurtured not only back to health, but also back to my faith. After a series of grief counseling sessions, I started to settle into my Christian faith again. I decided to move back to Ohio where my heart was. Since then I have joined Emanuel, and have found many more friends, not to mention my whole loving family. Pastor Castello, you have also helped to bring me back where I belong. I thank you and everyone else as I continue to learn about the love that God has shown me.

Bonnie Palanara

Schedule change for Holy Communion in October

Please note that there will be **no** Communion offered on October 4.

We will have Communion at **both** the 8:00 a.m. **and** 10:30 a.m. services on October 11.

Volunteers Needed

The Property Board is asking for volunteers to help insulate the church attic. This work would be performed on a Saturday, and we should be able to complete it in a day.

A definite date will be chosen once we see what kind of response we get for volunteers. So if you could help for a couple of hours or all day, please call the church office (419-592-2616). Your help would be greatly appreciated, and the impact on our energy cost should be significant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Property Board,

Ron Wiechers
Don Mitchell

Community Thanksgiving Meal

There will be another Community Thanksgiving meal. It will take place at St. Paul's United Methodist on W. Washington in Napoleon. We are in need of a contact person from our congregation to help with these plans. If you are willing to serve in that capacity, please let Pastor know.

We are also in need of volunteers to help with the meal. If you are willing to give of yourself to this ministry, please let Pastor know as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

from the Congregational Life Board

- ❑ **MANY THANKS** to all who walked and all who sponsored Walkers in the 5th annual CROP Hunger Walk on September 27.
- ❑ The collections for our giving/donation corner for October will be going to the **Filling Home**. Watch the bulletin for their “wish list” needs (which were unavailable at “press time”)!
- ❑ On Saturday, October 10, we are pleased to be hosting a concert by **The Academy Brass quintet** here at Emanuel. Our own Jason Jordan (who also happens to be Pastor and Carol’s son-in-law!) just happens to be the tuba player in this talented quintet. As a “preview”, the quintet will play during our 10:30 worship service on October 4.
- ❑ On Saturday, October 17 we will be decorating the sanctuary with the **bounties of our fall season and harvest**. All volunteers are welcome!
- ❑ A **new member’s reception** will take place between services on Sunday, October 25. Please plan on being here to meet and welcome the new members to our Emanuel Church Family.

It’s HOW MANY days until Christmas!?!?!?

Don’t panic – there is still time! But now is the time to think about preparing for Christmas! And this year there are two special opportunities for you!

We would once again like to “publish” an Advent devotion booklet written by and for you, our Emanuel Church Family. These writings needn’t be long; they needn’t be profound; they needn’t even be typewritten or proofread! The idea is to simply write a brief “essay” of what Christmas is all about to you – any special traditions you have or memories of Christmases past or thoughts about how you prepare for Christmas, etc. What does Christ’s birth mean to you? Please submit these to the Church Office by November 15; the first Sunday in Advent is November 29.

And to begin to prepare your heart for Christmas, the 5th Sunday in November (November 29, which is the First Sunday in Advent) will offer a “Journey to Bethlehem.” That afternoon the sanctuary will be open for a time of quiet prayer and meditation, and our own Worship and Music Director Angela Tonjes will provide the beautiful background music for this time. And once again, there will be a “nativity walk” with a display of nativity sets from all of you from all around the world. We’re hoping to have some cookies and coffee available then as you take a moment before the rush of the Season to remember “the Reason for the Season.” More details will be coming soon, but please keep this date and this event in mind.

Membership News

Weddings

Congratulations to Anthony Godsey and Erica Bishop who will be married by Pastor Castello on October 4 in North Carolina!

Transfer

Marie Bockelman has transferred her membership from Emanuel to Trinity Lutheran in Wauseon; and Kara Brokaw has transferred her membership from Emanuel to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brecksville, Ohio.

WE APPRECIATE HEARING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY NEWS (BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, ETC.).

We would like to include your family's birthdays in our birthday prayers on Sundays, in which case we would need those names and dates. We would also like to know the names of all those family members serving in the military.

5th Annual Filling Fall Fling

November 7, 2009

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Serving: Brats, Hotdogs, or Chicken Sandwiches
Homemade Pies and Cookies
Soft Drinks
Family Fun: Games for the Kids - Clowns
Live Musical Entertainment

Silent Auction: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Live Auction: begins at 2 p.m.

Homemade Bake Sale

Local Merchants and Vendor Booths

Christmas Gifts such as quilts and decor
(Listing available at www.fillinghome.org)

Come enjoy lunch or take out!

Free Admission (Freewill Offering Accepted)

All proceeds & contributions go to the Filling Homes Adaptive Equipment
& Personal Assistance Fund

For more information call 419-592-6451, ext. 1236

Thank you!

- ◆ I would like to thank the entire congregation for helping us raise enough money for all seven of us to venture down to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. We all had a blast down south. We strengthened friendships with each other and even more our faith in God. Each night, though they sometimes seemed to be a bit obnoxious with all the conga lines, allowed us to open our hearts to God and just let him do whatever work he wanted to in us. Though we didn't get the chance to actually help with the type of service project we wanted, we still helped with all the money our church donated. Again, thank you all for this amazing opportunity.

While I'm thanking you all, I would also like to thank everyone who helped me to go Camp Mowana this past summer. It was such an amazing time, as always. The more I go to camp, the more I love it. This is exactly the reason I am going to apply for a camp counselor position for next summer. I have always wanted to be a counselor ever since my first week at Mowana. I honestly cannot think of any better way to spend my summer than staying out in the woods helping children have a great time and grow in their faith, while growing in my own as well. Plus, I get paid for it! What better job is there? Just to make sure that I would be okay with working at camp all summer, I took up a volunteering position for another week. I was one of three senior high campers who came back to help out this week. Even though I wasn't having all the enjoyment of being a camper, I knew I was supposed to be there. I cannot wait for next summer. Although it will be my last year of eligibility as a camper, it doesn't feel like an ending. It feels like a new beginning. *-Marcus Mt.Castle*

- ◆ The Deshler Elementary (kindergarten through second grade) received a nice backpack filled with school supplies toady. Thank you for your act of kindness and generosity. More than ever, we have families who are struggling and your donation will greatly help. *-Sue Hammer, principal*
- ◆ On behalf of HOPE Services I want to thank you for allowing us access to your building while we were waiting for the Henry County Fair Parade to start. The availability of the restrooms as well as an option to be out of the sun was great benefit to several of our consumers. We also enjoyed the food & drink that was available. That was very generous of you....

Kaye Shroyer-Wesche, Compliance/Residential Director

WELCA News

Kathy Gerken

A big thank you to all who attended our September meeting and thank you to Miriam Circle for the wonderful refreshments.

A thank you goes out to Oneta Wiechers, Mary DeWit and Joan Collier for their hard work on the nominating committee and many thanks to those of you who have agreed to serve. We are blessed to have you all!

September is Soap Month and Make-A-Kit Month. Kit instructions were handed out at the September meeting. If you did not receive one, extras are on the bulletin board outside Pat's office. It is hoped that many of you will choose to make a kit or bring in soap for Lutheran World Relief as the need is great.

If you are donating soap, we ask that it be in the original wrapper. All sizes are accepted, but 4-5 oz. is preferred.

All kits need to be placed in the basement Sunday School area on or before Sunday, October 4. There will be signs. They will be sent with the quilts and soap. Clothing is no longer collected by LWR.

According to the LWR website, 1,455 tons of supplies worth \$13 million were distributed to more than 740,000 people in 27 different countries. Included in that were 455,798 quilts, 193,665 school kits, 133,500 health kits, 34,875 sewing kits, 103,640 layettes and 122,418 pounds of soap. Praise God for all who donated to this worthwhile cause.

Our next WELCA meeting will be in November. This will be our Thankoffering. Look in next month's newsletter and future bulletins for the day and time, and please plan to attend this special meeting.

❖ *Missionary Sponsorship*

As most of you know, the Maumee Valley Conference is one of the sponsors of our missionaries, the LeMonds. As a part of this group, it is our responsibility to contribute to this sponsorship. Won't you please help out by using the enclosed envelope and placing it in the offering plate. You have the whole month of October to do this. The LeMonds are doing a great job for us and deserve our support.

Thank you, ladies.

❖ *Filling Home Guild Annual Membership Drive*

It's that time again! Dues are \$1.00; however, more will be accepted. This is for active and inactive members. You may turn your money in to Pat Mohring at the church office along with your complete mailing address and phone number, or you may place it in the offering plate. Thank you from Ellen Lange and Shelly Storch.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Mission Festival with LWR Speaker

St. Paul Lutheran, Pemberville (New Rochester) is planning a very special Mission Festival this year and would like to invite everyone to come!

Sunday, October 11, 2009 (the week before the ingathering of quilts and other kits for LWR)

St. Paul, as the collection point (for many years) for the LWR boxes is hosting Brenda Meier, Director for Congregation and Community Engagement, who will be the featured speaker. She is with LWR and will be sharing with us about the work of LWR throughout the world. She is a well-known and much appreciated speaker and we are lucky to have her present with us for this event!

Presentation 1: During the Sunday School hour at 9:00 a.m.
Presentation 2: During the church service at 10:15 a.m.

Everyone is invited to the Chicken bar-b-que dinner after the service. Please call the church for details and to make reservations (419-287-3811).

The church is located at 14545 New Rochester Road, Pemberville, OH 43450
(New Rochester is located near the intersection of US Rt. 6 and OH Rt. 199 in the community of New Rochester. The church's address is Pemberville, but it is not in the town of Pemberville, it is in New Rochester.)

Red Cross Bloodmobile —

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 12-6 p.m. St. Augustine Catholic Church

Thursday, Oct. 8, 1-7 p.m. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Deshler

Monday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Northwest State Community College

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 12-6 p.m. St. Peter Lutheran Church, Holgate

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2-7 p.m. McClure Community @ United Methodist Church

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Henry Co. Mini @ Chapterhouse

Annual Henry County Hospital Auxiliary Bazaar
at Henry County Hospital
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Live Auction 12:00 Noon
Lunch served 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

Adult Choir

We are off to a great start, with many familiar faces and a few new ones! Rehearsals are NOW BEING HELD from 7:00 - 8:00 in the sanctuary on Wednesdays (this is a change, gives more time to digest your Soul Food). Thank you for your patience as we continue to get organized. We are preparing music for Sunday services, our fall concert, and the Christmas cantata.

Note the schedule change for October:

October 4 8:00 service Call to Worship and Offertory

October 11 10:30 service Call to Worship, Offertory & Communion

Thank you

Thank you to the anonymous donor of our new piano bench. It is a much more comfortable seat for our pianists, and we appreciate it greatly.

Thank you to Douglas and Judy Hoffman for hosting the choir kickoff party. We enjoyed the great weather, the great food, but most of all the great fellowship.

Hand Mime

The adult Sunday School class will be presenting their hand mime at the community Thanksgiving service in November. Watch for details about practicing.

Rainbow Ringers/Cherub Choir

We will begin another year of ringing and singing on Wednesday, October 7 during After School Club. We will learn some fun new songs, and there will be a few surprises too!

Academy Brass Concert

Once again, Emanuel is pleased to host a fall concert by the Academy Brass on Saturday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a group of five musicians from the greater Toledo area who perform a wide variety of music all over northwest Ohio. This will be the second fall concert of their season and will feature Emanuel's own Jason Jordan on tuba. You can check out the group's website at www.academybrassquintet.com. Join us for an evening of terrific music!

Video Ministry

Our video ministry is up and running! Please contact the church office if you would like a DVD of the service. The sound quality is excellent, the picture quality is very clear, and our videographers are doing a fine job with the new camera equipment. If you were gone for a Sunday, or were at home sick, this is a great way to worship in the comfort of your home.

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Looking ahead...

Sunday, November 22 Fall Music concert at both services
Wednesday, November 25 Community Thanksgiving service
Sunday, December 20 Cantata *Mary Did You Know?* (both services)

We are on WNDH radio the entire month of December.

Do not have your concert first and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with him.

-Hudson Taylor 1832-1905

Soul Food “Stirrings”

Our weekly Wednesday “Soul Food” suppers are underway again with serving from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. There is no sign-up required, and everyone is welcome. This serves as your open and ongoing invitation to come and enjoy! We are STILL and always in need of help with this weekly gathering. We will need salads and desserts each week to “fill out” the menus (and fill up hungry stomachs!), and we will need help weekly with shopping or cooking or clean-up.

The weekly menus will be posted on the bulletin board by the church office and by the kitchen, but are, as always, subject to change (sometimes things just don’t work out, and plans have to be changed!).

We may also be offering something new with a little “light exercise” following the meal. Phyl Kloos has energetically volunteered to lead some line-dancing for anyone who is interested. We just thought we’d give it a try...

Again, in case you’ve wondered, “Soul Food” is for everyone. You don’t need to have kids in After School Club or catechism or be in the choir; you simply need an appetite on Wednesday evening. It is always our hope that we are feeding body and soul with the food and fellowship of these weekly meals. We are reaching out more to the community this year to welcome all who are in need. If you see someone you don’t know, please greet them and welcome them. Offer to help them through the line and with the “routine” of the meal.

REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS.

Lutheran Home (1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon)

Evelyn Carlile

Marge Gathman

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

Paul Panning

Alpine Village Assisted Living (1032 S. Perry, Napoleon)

Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

Minnie Meineke (#306)

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon)

Julia Arps (mailing address: 8271 Co Rd T Liberty Center, OH 43532)

Otterbein Portage Valley (Avalon by Otterbein, 3533 Rivers Edge Dr Rm 106, Perrysburg OH 43551)

Hildegarde Reiser

Church Office Hours

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
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www.emanuelpoleon.org
Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Jack Robbins
Women of the ELCA President - Rita Schweinhagen
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@yahoo.com)
Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink
Asst. Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle
Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring
Sunday School Superintendent - Laura Ellis-Kruse
Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman
Custodian - Jack Robbins

A table blessing for children

We thank you, God, for happy hearts,
for rain and sunny weather.
We thank you, God, for this our food,
and that we're all together. Amen.

Worship participants in October

Lay Assistants

8:00 Richard Landversicht

10:30 Tom & Beth Jenny

Acolytes

8:00 Nathan Rohrs & Austin Damman

10:30 Neil Storch & Tyler Allison

Videographers

8:00

10:30 Jacob Skeens

Ushers

8:00 Jack Ruby, Bob Dennie,

Jeff Eickhoff, John Mohler

10:30 Chris Peper, Gary Bostelman,

Norm Bostelman, Kurt Rohrs

Altar Guild

Sandi Borstelman & Peggy Snyder

Altar Flowers

October 4 - In honor of Terry Hershberger's 50th birthday

- Ed & Alyce Oberhaus in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary

October 11 - Vern Lanzer in loving memory of Joyce

October 18 - Ron & Donna Lee Meyers

October 25 - Shirlee Fejes in loving memory of Nelson

- Bob & Linda Lulfs in loving memory of Leo Fouty & Joyce Lulfs

To reserve altar flowers...

Simply sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office.

Our flowers are done by Ivy League Floral & Design Studio on West Washington Street. The cost is \$20. If you have *special* orders for your flowers (certain colors, a larger arrangement, etc.), they will be happy to serve you. Please contact Cori Ratliff at Ivy League for these special orders. If your order is beyond the \$20, please pay the shop directly.

Statistics — from 8/20 through 9/20

Total Thursday attendance	Total Sunday attendance	Communed	Offerings
174	1,095	274	\$ 33,791.92 *

* includes:

\$11,070 Building Fund

185 Good Samaritan Fund

60 World Hunger

50 Beginner Bells (in honor of 6th birthday of Alyssa Kruse & 10th birthday of Madison Ashbaugh)

The following is a proposed amendment to our Constitution, to create an Endowment Fund. This proposal will be voted on at the October Congregational Meeting on October 25.

I Constitutional Amendments to Create the Mission Endowment Fund and The Endowment Committee

- C5.04 This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's bylaws. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.
- C12.05 e. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for overseeing the work of the mission endowment fund, this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.
- C13.05 This congregation shall have an Endowment Committee of five voting members of this congregation. Three of the members shall be elected by this congregation for staggered terms of three years, with one member elected at each annual meeting of this congregation. Elected members are eligible for only two consecutive terms. The president of this congregation and another member of the Congregation Council, selected by the Congregation Council, shall serve as members of the Endowment Committee. The Pastor and the Treasurer of this congregation shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Endowment Committee. The purpose of the Endowment Committee shall be to implement the guidelines of the mission endowment fund.

II Adoption of Bylaws to establish the Mission Endowment Fund Guidelines

The following bylaws shall be inserted into the constitution:

B6.06 ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

The duties of the Endowment committee shall include the following:

- a. To fulfill the purpose of the mission endowment fund, that is, to provide annual distributions of endowment fund income after the fund reaches \$100,000.00. No funds shall be distributed which would reduce the principle balance of the fund.

1. To support outreach into the local community as determined by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Congregation Council;
 2. To support one-time programs or start-up costs of other ministry initiatives within this congregation that will enhance or expand the mission of this congregation as determined by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Congregation Council;
 3. To support seminary education through scholarships to one or more individuals studying at a ELCA seminary, as determined by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Congregation Council;
 4. To support ELCA Church wide ministries as determined by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Congregation Council.
- b. To oversee investments and distribution of all endowment fund assets in accordance with this congregation's investment policy statement, which shall be updated by the Endowment Committee at least annually and approved by the congregation council.
- c. To encourage gifts to the mission endowment fund through education and promotion of the mission endowment fund.
- d. To receive and celebrate gifts given for ministry through the mission endowment fund and to maintain a permanent book of remembrance of donors. The Endowment Committee has the discretion to decline acceptance of a gift if deemed to be in the best interest of the endowed fund and this congregation.
- e. To respond to a congregational request, under an unforeseen emergency situation, to use distributions of income from the mission endowment fund to help this congregation rectify an economically devastating situation. Any such distribution is a loan to be repaid.
- f. To accept undesignated gifts received by this congregation, such as, but not limited to, bequests, life insurance proceeds and remainders from life income agreements. Twenty-five percent of each such undesignated gift will be distributed immediately to the general fund of this congregation. The remaining portion will be added to the mission endowment fund.