

FOUNDATION

FORUM

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WINTER 2006

MARY MARGARET “NORTON” & SCHULER C. STOOKSBURY *A Story of Caring and Giving*



MARY MARGARET NORTON & SCHULER STOOKSBURY...AND THE FARM

Schuler Stooksbury and Mary Margaret Norton were married on July 16, 1954 in Concord, Tennessee. Schuler had grown up in the Methodist Church and Mary Margaret had grown up in the Presbyterian Church. They were both very active in their respective churches, Concord United Methodist and Concord Presbyterian and continued their memberships in each throughout their happy marriage. Mary Margaret became the first woman Elder in her church, while Schuler was very involved in the support and financial activities at Concord UMC. They both felt strongly about tithing and providing help for the needy. Their spirit of sacrificial giving and service led them to the decision to eventually give their 16-acre farm for the purpose of establishing a permanent endowment for helping needy people.

Schuler retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier in 1973 and Mary Margaret retired from a long secretarial career at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1979. They both loved gardening and farming. They believed that everything in the world belongs to God and that they had been blessed with God's gifts. Their lives demonstrated their strong faith through their actions.

Before Mary Margaret's untimely death from a massive heart attack in 1992, they had discussed eventually giving their farm to charity. In 2005 when Schuler's health declined and he moved to assisted living facilities, he contacted his church seeking help in establishing the endowment. Concord UMC, in turn, called for assistance from The Holston Conference Foundation.

On August 22, 2005, Schuler Stooksbury funded THE MARY MARGARET AND SCHULER C. STOOKSBURY CHARITABLE TRUST, through the gift of their home and farm in Farragut, Tennessee. This fund is established by Schuler in loving memory of Mary Margaret with thanksgiving for sharing her life, love and companionship. Schuler is also grateful for the love, compassion, and friendship shared through the years with the clergy and the members of Concord United Methodist Church and desires that this fund be a catalyst that involves and encourages other people in the ministry of caring for others.

After Schuler's death, proceeds of the Trust will create a permanent endowment for Concord United Methodist Church. Earnings from THE MARY MARGARET NORTON AND SCHULER C. STOOKSBURY ENDOWMENT will be used to support Christian outreach and ministries, especially those ministries benefiting the needy, including members of their own congregation, those in the local community, retired ministers, widows, senior citizens, orphans, and those that are ill, hungry, and lost.



From the Director's Chair

Thanks to several new endowments, trusts, and accounts established to benefit local churches and other areas of ministry and the fourth-quarter bounce in the financial markets, total assets in the Foundation crossed well over the \$50 million mark. On December 31, total assets under management totaled \$52,108,450...a 15% increase over the past year and a new record high.

While the official performance review is not yet complete, it looks like THE BALANCED GROWTH FUND performed well gaining 5.27% in 2005. Trailing returns show that this fund has exceeded its expected benchmark for seven (7) years in a row. THE BALANCED GROWTH FUND continues to be the investment of choice for most endowments and other long-term designated accounts in the Foundation.

Tentative returns show that THE INTERMEDIATE INCOME FUND ended the year in the black with a total return of approximately \$1.86%. As with all bond funds, rising interest rates have negatively impacted total returns, but the yield to maturity for this fund is 4.8%. This is important particularly for those accounts seeking steady income.

For those accounts with a short-term horizon, we offer THE SHORT-TERM INCOME FUND (STIF) and THE MONEY MARKET FUND. Again, rising interest rates negatively impacted the STIF, which was up 2.05% for the year with a current yield to maturity of 3.3%. The Money Market Fund's yield rose rapidly during the year and has a current yield of 3.83%.

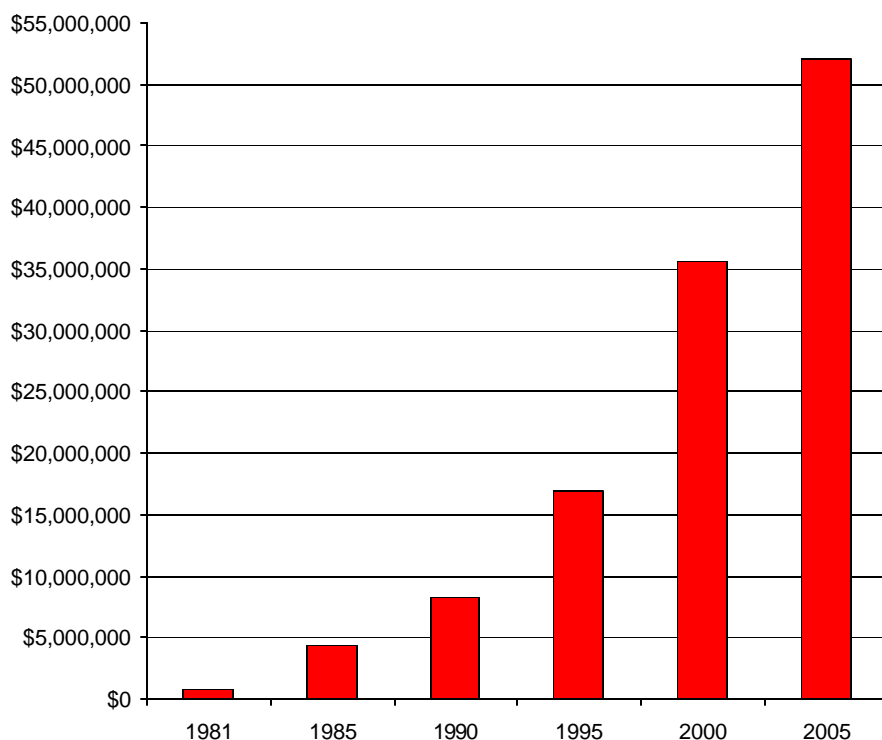
Assisting churches and ministries with their investments is one of the Foundation's core areas of service. We assist church leaders evaluating and exploring investment and spending options for their designated funds and can even help them develop their own policies. My first love, however, is helping people interested in creating endowments and other designated funds to support their select church or area of ministry. Their generous gifts bring life to ministries and inspire others to do the same!

Call on us if we can help you or your church or ministry in 2006!

— Roger Redding

NOTE: Our official 2005 performance results will be posted on the web at www.holston.org/foundation... check this out for more information.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT



ASSETS

1981	\$829,750
1982	\$1,220,555
1983	\$1,988,914
1984	\$3,116,719
1985	\$4,380,021
1986	\$5,476,549
1987	\$6,253,670
1988	\$5,983,349
1989	\$6,914,542
1990	\$8,325,003
1991	\$9,314,907
1992	\$11,212,233
1993	\$12,037,985
1994	\$14,620,931
1995	\$17,043,088
1996	\$22,100,559
1997	\$27,713,405
1998	\$32,155,989
1999	\$35,870,971
2000	\$35,583,289
2001	\$34,990,146
2002	\$33,675,552
2003	\$39,676,494
2004	\$45,567,839
2005	\$52,108,450

A True Christmas Blessing:

THE RITA HOMMEL CHRISTMAS MISSION ENDOWMENT

Rita Hommel was born and raised in Dayton, Tennessee. She and George were married in Dayton while George was a student at the University of Tennessee. After graduation, Rita and George moved to Kentucky and for 30-plus years lived away from Tennessee.

During their 52 years of marriage, Rita was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and homemaker. Her greatest joy came from bringing joy to others. For this reason, Christmas took on a very special place in her life. Family and friends were drawn to Rita during the Holiday season. She had a way of bringing the full meaning of Christmas to anyone she came in contact with.

In 2003, Rita and George sold their business in Kentucky. In 2004, they retired back home to Tennessee, settling in deep west Knoxville. Once settled in their new house, they searched for a new church home. During this time, Rita was suddenly diagnosed with a new cancer. George visited and was welcomed at First Farragut United Methodist Church. Rita tragically died on August 24, 2005 and Rev. Bernice Kirkland, then associate pastor at First Farragut, assisted with the memorial service. The next week George joined the church.

After her death, George and daughters, Janet Sebba and Leslie Smenner wanted to do something special in Rita's memory. George met with Rev. Richard Edwards and Clyde Tisdale from First Farragut, who in turn, asked the Foundation for assistance.

In keeping with Rita's desire to share the spirit and joy of Christmas with those people and families less fortunate, THE RITA HOMMEL CHRISTMAS MISSION ENDOWMENT was born. George funded the endowment and also provided funds to be used to "prime-the-pump" and begin supporting ministries during the 2005 Christmas season.

Each year this endowment will provide a minimum of \$5,000 to be used by the church's mission team to help the less fortunate by supplying toys, food, medicine, clothing



RITA HOMMEL

and other needs through the hands-on involvement of members of First Farragut United Methodist Church. It is the Hommel Family's hope that the church members involved in the distribution effort will be as blessed as the families receiving the support.

Steve Krupski, chair of the Missions Team at First Farragut UMC reports that over \$3,000 was used during December to support various ministries, including the following:

- Supplied \$1,000 worth of toys and clothes to the Morgan-Scott Project. This involved a group of First Farragut UMC members going shopping and a second group delivering the toys and clothes to Scott county along with the other things that were collected by the congregation.
- Working with the Compassion Coalition, the church adopted five Katrina families here in Knoxville. After contacting them to find out what they could use a group went shopping for \$1,000 worth of toys, a bicycle, table and chairs, diapers, clothes and gift certificates. Another group delivered the gifts to the families and wished them Merry Christmas.
- A single mother and children were adopted from the empty stocking fund. Someone from First Farragut UMC congregation shopped for \$189 worth of gifts and delivered them to the family for Christmas.
- During the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, First Farragut UMC took their turn receiving phone orders and delivering bags of food for FISH. Only this time the bags of food going to families included a ham. Twenty (20) spiral-cut hams worth \$280 were distributed. FISH never includes meat in the bags of food they deliver as emergency meals.
- On Saturday before New Year's Day, First Farragut UMC delivered mobile meals to 29 senior shut-ins. The church does this the first Saturday of every month since mobile meals does not deliver on weekends. However, this time they delivered 20 fruit baskets totaling \$200 to the households along with a wish for Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with the hot meal. It was reported that there were a number of wet eyes.

CREATING A FAMILY FUND

The Holston Conference Foundation continues to grow because we not only provide assistance to churches, but also to individuals and families who are inspired to create their own special designated funds or permanent endowment. Their lives have been blessed and sometimes even touched by tragedy, but they are drawn to doing something special for a ministry or church that they truly love. Some establish funds in memory of those lost or to honor a family name. Some gifts are given to support a particular church or to support a specific area of ministry within a church. Other funds are not specifically designated, but are to support a broader ministry need across the Conference or even beyond. Most all funds do reflect the hopes and dreams of the individuals to make a lasting difference.

Why do people choose to create designated funds and endowments through the Foundation? One obvious reason is that we know how to do it. Our job is to listen to your interests and then to help you explore the options, whether it is funded outright, over time, through a planned gift or through your estate plan. The recommended minimum to establish a permanent fund is \$10,000, but the “right amount” all depends on what the Donor wants the fund to accomplish. Other reasons Donors consider when creating a fund:

1. DURABILITY

The idea of creating a perpetual stream of financial support for ministry makes sense to many people. They like the concept of a fund that is guarded and invested separately from other assets so the principal of the fund will stay intact. Only the income or a percentage of the value will be used to support the chosen ministry. The Foundation has in place solid long-term investment policies and is committed to providing appropriate stewardship and oversight for all funds.

2. A POSITIVE LEGACY

When donors attach their names or the name of a loved one to a fund, they create an enduring legacy that will outlive them and influence succeeding generations. Other family members and friends will be reminded on the person's values and commitments. Endowment funds can also be used to honor the lives of others who have made a significant impact on the donor and/or the church.

3. LASTING IMPACT

Many donors see an endowment fund as a means to making a lasting impact on a ministry they are passionate about. For example, an endowment fund of \$20,000 could create an annual gift of \$800 - \$1,000 forever. It's a great way to “leave your mark” and fund a particular ministry or program.

4. FLEXIBILITY

Every endowment and designated fund established through the Foundation has a written document in place that is developed with the Donor to determine its use. Although welcomed, most funds do not directly benefit the Foundation, but are designated by the Donor for one or more ministries of their choosing. We can also help Donors start something new. Our job is to provide long-term stewardship of the gift and to make the distributions as directed.

5. PERSONAL SATISFACTION

There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing something good that lasts and really makes a difference. Other kinds of giving are important, but creating a fund that will benefit others for centuries is truly satisfying.

If you would like to learn more about creating a special fund or endowment, contact us:

CLIP AND MAIL

☐ Creating an Endowment or Designated Fund

☐ Creating a Donor-Advised Fund

☐ Personal Estate Planning

☐ Creating and Properly Investing Permanent Endowment Funds at My Church

☐ Scheduling a Program at My Church

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Church Name

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.

MATTHEW 5:14-16

FOUNDATION: BOARD UPDATE



Bradley Bower
Foundation President

On October 25, the Foundation's board met at the Cokesbury Center in Knoxville to review Foundation business and make plans for the coming year. The board re-elected **Bradley Bower** as President; **Richard Timberlake** as Vice-President; and **Nancy Stanley** as Secretary for 2006 and approved the addition of **Roger Leonard** (State Street UMC, Bristol); **Kevin Proffitt** (First Maryville UMC); and **Martha Rector** (First Broad Street UMC, Kingsport) to serve three-year terms of ser-

vice on the board. Recognition was also provided to **Will Pugh** (Concord UMC, Knoxville) and **Mike Stice** (First Broad Street UMC, Bristol) for completing three, three-year terms of service. We will greatly miss both of these leaders as they rotate off the board due to term limits.

The year 2005 was a great year, as we crossed over \$50-million in assets. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities to be of service in 2006. We are eager to help you 'Let Your Light Shine!'

- Bradley Brower

Please contact us by mail or e-mail if we have your name or address wrong on the mailing label, or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive the *Foundation Forum* by e-mail, please let us know...we would be pleased to save the mailing costs.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.holston.org/foundation

FOUNDATION FLASHES

- ♦ On October 2, Roger presented the message at Bethel United Methodist Church in the Kingsport District. Thanks to **Rev. Alan Gorrell** for this opportunity to be of service.
- ♦ On October 10, Roger met with **Rev. Charles Griffin** and the Church Council at Fairview United Methodist Church in Jonesborough, Tennessee, to talk about stewardship of church resources, designated giving and gifts through estate plans. Thanks to **Nancy Maddock** for this invitation. We look forward to assisting with the management of church assets and assisting with some educational efforts in the future.
- ♦ On October 13, Roger provided a program on the Foundation's ministries to the Oak Ridge District ministers. The Foundation has recently been involved in securing several large gifts benefiting churches in the district. The opportunity to tell some of the stories behind the gifts and help ministers understand the services we provide for their churches was most timely. Thanks to **Rev. Ken Henderlight** for the invitation.
- ♦ On October 30, Roger presented the Consecration Sunday message at Colonial Heights United Methodist Church in Knoxville. Roger recognized **Ed Cate** and his family for the creation of THE CAROL THOMPSON CATE MUSIC ENDOWMENT earlier in the year. **Rev. Robert Countiss** reports that giving increased and that the church has received a wonderful bequest that might be invested with the Foundation.
- ♦ On November 5, Roger served as the speaker for the Hiwassee College Homecoming luncheon. Thanks to **Dr. James Noseworthy** for the chance to plant some future gift seeds! **Mark Elam** was also introduced in his new role as chief development officer for the college.
- ♦ On November 6, Roger met with **Rev. Doug Wilder** and the trustees at First Oneida United Methodist Church about investment options for designated funds. Since this meeting, Roger has assisted the church with a governance document for their Quasi-Endowment, which has been moved to the Foundation. Special thanks to **Jean McGraw** for her patience and leadership.
- ♦ On November 9, Roger presented a special program on designated giving and endowments at First Farragut United Methodist Church. Special thanks to **Clyde Tisdale** and **Rev. Richard Edwards** for this opportunity. This church was blessed just after this presentation with a wonderful gift to support their ministry and outreach. (*See Rita Hommel story*).
- ♦ On November 13, Roger preached two services at First Oak Ridge United Methodist Church at the invitation of **Rev. Robert Cantrell**. This was a special privilege as the Foundation's involvement with the church's Endowment and Enduring Gifts Committee has been so fruitful over the past year. Special thanks to current Foundation board members, **Jo Clark** and **Nancy Stanley**, who were present as well as one of our original founding board members, **Elaine Trauger**.
- ♦ On November 16, Roger met with the board of directors of Samaritan Hands at their annual meeting in Vonore, Tennessee, to review the designated accounts and performance of funds placed with the Foundation. Samaritan Hands represents several vital global ministry efforts in Guatemala, Paraguay, Latvia, Zimbabwe and Costa Rica. It has been a real blessing to be involved in stewarding and receiving gifts for these remarkable ministries. Special thanks to **Rev. Jerry Russell, Bill Daugherty, Ben Greene, David Talley, Mark & Jo Waltz, Mabel Love-Brown, and Doug Warren** for their servant leadership. There is much to do!.
- ♦ On November 27, Roger provided a special lesson for the Heritage Sunday School Class at First Maryville United Methodist Church on getting your financial house in order and planning for the future of the church. Thanks to **Jerry Hodge**, who heads the reinvigorated Endowment Committee at the church for this opportunity.
- ♦ On December 8, Roger, Rita Broderick and Brenda Mills had the privilege of delivering a \$10,000 Foundation grant to **Jill Baker**, Executive Director at the **Morgan-Scott Project**. That evening they were also blessed to visit **Bromma Pemberton's** Christmas Open House in Oneida. If this does not get you into the real spirit of Christmas...nothing will! We are blessed to be a blessing for others.