



# Faith & Funding



## FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

In 1983, the Epple Family Foundation placed a gift of \$50,000 into the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. The gift was to be invested for 25 years and then paid in full to the beloved home church of the Epple family.

Fast-forward to September 21, 2008. The Epple gift has grown more than tenfold. Over half a million dollars was presented to the Missouri United Methodist Church in Columbia during a Sunday morning celebration.

The story of the Epple family has been intertwined with the story of Methodism in Missouri for more than a century. In a conversation earlier this year with Jerry and Jeanne Epple, fond memories and historic connections were revisited as we talked about this latest gift from an extraordinary family. (We are also grateful for additional historical



Elizabeth & John Epple

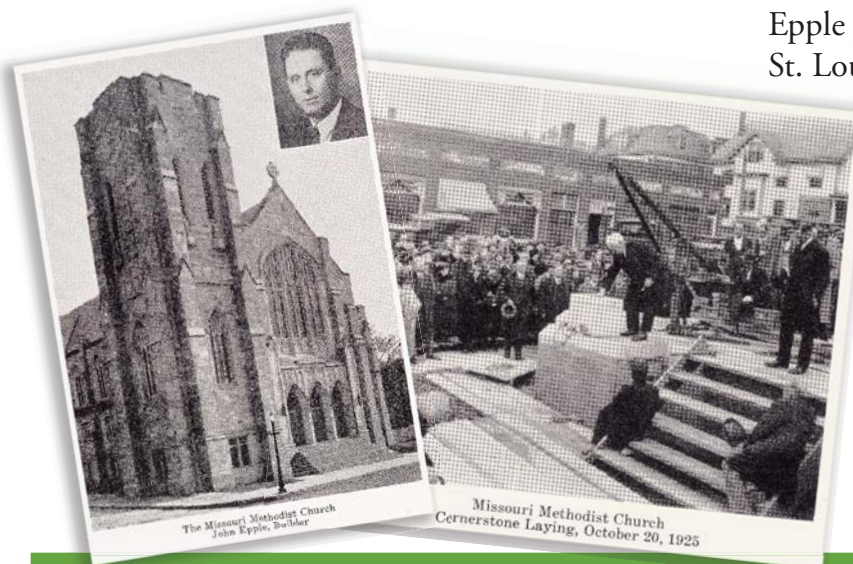
sources shared by the Epples including newspaper clippings and a book titled *History of the Missouri Methodist Church* by Dr. Frank F. Stephens.)

### The Methodist Connection

In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, John A. Epple joined his father's construction business in St. Louis to build a Methodist church in Ferguson, Missouri. Their work made an impression on Bishop William F. McMurry who subsequently hired the Epple company to build the Linn Memorial Methodist Church in Fayette on the campus of Central Methodist College.

John, Elizabeth and their young family moved to Columbia when the Epple Construction Company was hired to complete the Missouri Methodist Church in

*(continues on page 9)*



The Missouri Methodist Church  
John Epple, Builder

Missouri Methodist Church  
Cornerstone Laying, October 20, 1925



## Judge Leah B. McCartney Scholarship Fund



LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Dustin Buell** Liberty UMC

**Malcom Hegeman** Centennial UMC, *Kansas City*

The Judge Leah B. McCartney Scholarship Fund was created by Leah's husband, Reverend Victor McCartney, as a perpetual memorial to his wife. The scholarship is a fitting memorial to one who achieved both educational and professional distinction. This year, two students received a McCartney Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 each.



## Merrydelle May Fund

Merrydelle May was active in Methodist causes statewide, including Epworth Children and Family Services, Gambrill Gardens, and the Wednesday Club. A member of the Methodist Hall of Fame, Mrs. May held a masters degree in social work and was an avid supporter of higher education. This year, 13 students received a May Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 each.



LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP:

**Jamie Boedeker** Grace UMC, *Lee's Summit*

**Heidi Buell** Liberty UMC

**Jenna Chase** King's Way UMC, *Springfield*

**Angela Cole** Neosho UMC

**Samantha Cooper** Platte City UMC

**Christine Dunshee** Faith UMC, *House Springs*

**Nicole Fenton** Pleasant Hill UMC

**Kevin Kosh** Union Memorial UMC, *Saint Louis*

**Samuel Lucas** Clinton UMC

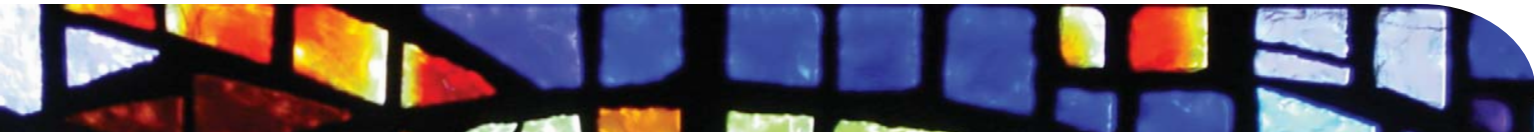
**Mairnee Manring** Albany UMC

**Lori Marshall** Christ's Community UMC, *Joplin*

**Stephen Parker** Neosho UMC

**Patrice Washington** Centennial UMC, *Kansas City*





## Clint & Marge Hawkins Memorial Christian Education Fund for Youth



LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Amanda Gastreich** UMC of Green Trails, *Chesterfield*

**Jennifer Harris** Zion UMC, *Saint Louis*

**Donnie Howell** Hallsville UMC

**Brandon Hawkins** Christ's Community UMC, *Joplin*

The Clint & Marge Hawkins Memorial Christian Education Fund for Youth was created to honor the Hawkins' lifetime devotion to the church and their dedication to promoting and sustaining the

development of young people. This year, four students received a Hawkins Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 each.

## Foundation Scholars

This year, the Foundation Board of Directors redirected additional grant funds to supplement scholarships awarded by the Foundation. Ten students received these scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP:

**Sally Baldwin** UMC of Chillicothe

**Bria Ballew** First United Methodist Presbyterian Church, *Montgomery City*

**Jessica Boeger** Christ's Community UMC, *Joplin*

**Julia Ehlers** First UMC, *Maryville*

**Emily Felton** First UMC, *Maryville*

**Justin Fox** Neosho UMC

**Benjamin Hopper** Branson UMC

**John Miller** Wesley UMC, *Springfield*

**Morgan Paris** Community UMC, *Columbia*

**Melissa Petrie** Christ UMC, *Independence*



Scholarship Applications for 2009-2010 are due by April 1, 2009. Visit our website for additional information and application instructions.

[www.mumf.org](http://www.mumf.org)

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRIBUTES

## **AXTHELM FAMILY UMCOR FUND**

Deon Axthelm

## **ZACK F. & KATHRYN L. BETTIS ENDOWMENT FUND**

Gail Bettis-Ford  
Kathryn Bettis  
Zack F. Bettis  
Zack F. Bettis, Jr.  
Elizabeth Yeargain

## **SHIRLEY SPANN BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FERGUSON UMC**

Robert M. Brooks  
*- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen R. Brooks; Mr. & Mrs. Allan Brooks; Mr. & Mrs. Brian McKee; Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Brooks*

## **MATT & SHEILA CAPPELLO "FOR ELISE & SAM"**

### **DONOR ADVISED FUND**

Deborah Letchworth  
*- In Memory of Elise & Sam Cappello*

### **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES**

Anonymous *- benefiting local church*  
Anonymous  
*- benefiting First UMC-North Kansas City*  
Marvin and Bettyrae Fluke  
*- benefiting Clinton UMC*  
Byron and Joyce Gilbreath  
*- benefiting the C. Byron & Joyce Gilbreath Permanent Endowment Fund*  
Marjorie Hendren  
*- benefiting First UMC-North Kansas City*  
Ted Matkin (2)  
*- benefiting Mount Zion UMC-Saint Louis*

## **CONCORD TRINITY UMC LIVING MEMORIAL FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT**

Richard & Shirley Duncan  
*- In Memory of Paula Eaton*  
Robert & Carol Pennycuik  
George & Bobbie Winebright March to the Manger

## **CUBA UMC APPORTIONMENT ENDOWMENT FUND**

Anonymous

## **CUBA UMC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**

Anonymous

## **WILLIAM H. & JO ANN DINWIDDIE EDUCATION FUND**

Jeanette Messina

## **MARIAN L. FIRESTONE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Sally A. Firestone

## **FOUNDATION DIRECTORS' PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND**

David Atkins  
*- In Honor of Keith Maxwell*  
*- In Memory of Jean Collins*

## **FOUNDATION SEMINARY SCHOLARS FUND**

David Atkins  
*- In Memory of Pauline Arnold*  
*- In Memory of Reverend Al Smith*

## **MUMF Board of Directors**

*- In Honor & Memory of Bud Cox*

## **FOUNDATION UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT**

Reverend Jean Dicken  
Thomas & Deborah Hilton  
Charles & Rachel Meier Trust  
Reverend Mary Ellen & Warren Meyer  
*- In Memory of Clairra Raines*  
*- In Memory of Raymond F. Meyer*  
*- In Memory of Reverend Joe Harding*  
*- In Memory of Reverend Keith Maxwell*  
*- In Memory of Tom Washington*  
*- In Memory of Toy Mae Odom*  
*- To Honor Merle Welshans on his very special birthday*  
*- To Honor Pearl Jean Johnson on her very special birthday*

Jacqueline M. Pennington Charitable Trust

## **FUND FOR AREA DEVELOPMENT**

Anonymous

## **HELEN GIBBS MEMORIAL FUND**

Estate of Helen Gibbs

## **GRAND AVENUE TEMPLE FUTURES FUND**

Marlene Dinkmeyer

## **CHANCE HARP MEMORIAL FUND**

*- The following contributions are in memory of Chance Harp*  
Phil & Linda Appling, Matt & Cheri Appling,  
Aaron & Tanya Appling  
Ervin & Shirley Bussey  
Jack & Jean Collins  
Richard & Judy Day  
Dr. & Mrs. John A. Dorsch  
Pamela Eaton

*The contributions, tributes, honors, and memorials on pages 4 and 5 were received July 26, 2007 through September 11, 2008. Please notify us of any corrections or omissions at 800-332-8238.*

Carroll & Dana Fox  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbreath  
Carl & Elaine Gum  
Tom and Janet Hamlet and Tanner,  
Karen Hamlet, Ann Hamlet  
Lela Handley  
Ladies Night Out Group of Crossroads UMC  
Phyllis Lewis  
Mark & Lori McNeely  
Bob & Donna Shoemaker  
Bill & Ruth Tarpley  
Larry & Helen Thompson

**CLINT AND MARGE HAWKINS MEMORIAL FUND**

United Church Men of Greater St. Louis

**DR. & MRS. J H HEWLETT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

Nancy J. Sanders

**BOONE & NADINE T. INGELS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Nadine T. Ingels

**BETTY KISHPAUGH MEMORIAL FUND**

*- The following contributions are in memory of Betty Kishpaugh*

Joe & Marilyn Bieber  
Robert and Mabel Dighton  
Martha Fowler  
Patricia and Kennett Kellar  
Robert & Carol Luckey  
Wayne and Norma McDaniel  
Thelma Munzer  
Dola Sheherd  
Harold and Joan Wright

**KEITH & BARBARA MAXWELL CHARITABLE MEMORIAL TRUST**

Barbara Maxwell

*- The following contributions are in memory of Reverend Keith Maxwell*

Marian Bowman  
Marilyn J. Drayton  
LaVonne Filla  
Ken & MaryAnn Frack  
James Gary & Sally Ogden  
Allen Hess & Elaine O'Neil-Hess  
Ed & Jane Jording  
Nancy McMullin  
Phyllis Miller  
Michael D. O'Neil

James & Cathy Pette; FAA co-workers of Pamela Maxwell  
John & Alison Phemister  
Betty Ransom  
Patricia Ruble & The Covenant Group  
Reverend Ann B. Sherer  
Joseph & Jean Slavitt  
M. Ray & Sally Thompson  
Alice & Ken Walsh  
William & Patricia Weidlich  
Monica B. Woldt  
William Woods & Jeanne Wilson Woods

**LOUISE MILES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Billings UMC

*- In Memory of Mrs. Helen Hawley. Helen was a member of our sister church, Mt Olive UMC in Marionville. She will be greatly missed by our congregations*

**JAMES C. MORDY CHARITABLE DONOR ADVISED FUND**

James & Marjory Mordy

**E. A. MORGAN FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND**

Elizabeth Ann Morgan

**TOY MAE & ED ODOM BUILDING ENDOWMENT FUND**

**BENEFITING EPWORTH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES**

Jack & Mary Lou Adams

*- The following contributions are in memory of Toy Mae Odom*

Robert & Evelyn Baur  
Joy Bruce & Jacob Owensby  
Roger & Donna Eime  
Charles & Jan Fishman  
Henryetta Knobel  
Doris Schulte & Janice Schulte-Glad  
Meredith Sperber & Susan Lipscomb

**POTOSI UMC BICENTENNIAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

Potosi UMC

*- In memory of Donald Walton and John Gaghem*

**UNITY AWARD ENDOWMENT FUND**

Robert Siler

**WILLIAMS FAMILY PERMANENT ENDOWMENT TRUST**

Leonard & Gloria Williams

**ZION UMC OF OLD APPLETON CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND**

*- The following contributions are in memory of Byron Lang*  
Roger Lang  
Gerald & Pamela Leimer  
Walt Wilkening

# GRANTS

## FALL 2007

**Aldrich UMC** - \$2,997 to help purchase a multi-media projection system

**All Faith UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Atlanta UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Beloved Community UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projection system

**Benton UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Buffalo UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Camdenton UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Centenary UMC, Cape Girardeau** - \$4,950.74 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Community UMC** - \$4,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment for the youth ministry programs

**Country Club UMC** - \$2,000 to help upgrade the children's Sunday School facilities

**Epworth UMC of Sedalia** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projection system

**Fairmount UMC** - \$2,500 to help purchase a computer, monitor, printer, and software

**Forsyth UMC** - \$4,000 matching grant to help purchase supplies for expanded Sunday School classes

**The Gathering UMC** - \$10,000 to help update an existing area to be used for the Kid's Ministry program

**Grace UMC, Lee's Summit** - \$5,000 matching grant to help renovate an existing area to be used for junior high and senior high activities

**Green City UMC** - \$2,000 to help build a ramp and awning for increased accessibility to the fellowship hall

**Jefferson Avenue UMC** - \$1,000 to help replace a furnace and air conditioning unit

**Kimberling City UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment for *Joy Connection*, a new contemporary worship service

**Lancaster UMC** - \$4,175 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Maplewood UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projector

**Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC** - \$5,000 to help develop the website dedicated to The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

**Napoleon UMC** - \$5,000 matching grant to help repair the church roof and steeple

**Nelson Memorial UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment for The Flame

**Oakton UMC** - \$5,000 contingency grant to help fund start-up salary of a youth pastor for Project Fire

**Oregon UMC WEE CARE Child Development Center** - \$2,000 to help cover startup costs for a new daycare center

**Pitts Chapel UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help replace the sound system

**Platte Woods Church – Flite Ministries** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projection system for youth services

**Pleasant Grove UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Rockville UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projection system

**Sadler Chapel UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projection system

**Southwest District** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment for the District Renewal and Retreat Center

**St. Paul UMC** - \$4,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Theodosia UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase a multi-media projection system

**UM Church of the Shepherd** - \$5,000 to help support a new Spiritual Development program

**Wesley UMC, Trenton** - \$2,500 to help purchase audio/visual equipment for the new senior high ministry, ASK 707

**Willard UMC** - \$3,590 to help purchase audio/visual equipment for use by the Children's Church program

## SPRING 2008

**Bolivar UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase computer and projector equipment

**CARES Outreach** - \$3,000 to help establish a Contextual Education placement for the 2008-2009 school year

**Center for Congregational Excellence** - \$50,000 to help fund two new church starts

**Center for Pastoral Excellence** - \$22,200 to help fund three pastoral training events

**Clarence UMC** - \$4,000 challenge grant to help convert existing space into ADA accessible restrooms

**Clever UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio equipment

**Faith UMC, House Springs** - \$4,875 to help replace and expand seating in the sanctuary

**Faith UMC, House Springs** - \$1,920 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Faith UMC, Kirksville** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**First UMC, New Madrid** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**First UMC, Warrensburg** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase equipment to document mission work and increase access to worship services

**First UMC, Washington** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Gambrill Gardens** - \$1,200 challenge grant to help purchase an LCD television for the new Health and Wellness Center

**Marble Hill UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase visual media equipment

**Marceline UMC** - \$4,588 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Metro Homeless Center-Shalom House** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help establish the position of Shalom House Chaplain

**Midway Locust Grove UMC** - \$2,900 to help purchase a laptop computer and projector

**Milan UMC** - \$3,500 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**New Horizons UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Oakton UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio/visual equipment for a new, contemporary youth service

**Russellville UMC** - \$5,000 challenge grant to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Shiloh UMC** - \$7,637.95 to help remodel the nursery to be Safe Sanctuaries compliant

**Smith Chapel UMC** - \$2,400 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Smithville UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase projection equipment

**Trinity UMC, Bloomfield** - \$5,000 to help purchase equipment for visual media outreach

**Trinity UMC, Piedmont** - \$2,000 to help send three lay leaders to the Stephen Leader Training Conference

**Wentzville UMC** - \$8,000 challenge grant to help establish the position of Director of Connections

**Weston UMC** - \$5,000 to help purchase audio/visual equipment

**Zion UMC, Brunswick** - \$2,000 challenge grant to help purchase free-standing room dividers for the Fellowship Hall

Total Grant  
Awards for  
Fall 2007  
\$154,712

Total Grant  
Awards for  
Spring 2008  
\$190,220

## THE SALVAGE YARD, JOPLIN

The Salvage Yard doesn't look like a typical church and the worship services are noticeably louder. This environment may not be for everyone, but for many, it is the catalyst that connects and reconnects them with Jesus Christ.

In 2006, The Salvage Yard was awarded a \$5,000 challenge grant by the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. The proposal described a project to record worship services and concerts for broadcasting over the Internet. As an outreach of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, The Salvage Yard provides an open door that is free from worry or intimidation. Internet broadcasting opens that door much wider to people around the world. It's a practice we now know as Radical Hospitality.

Thanks to a generous church member, The Salvage Yard met the challenge with over \$5,000 in recording and computer equipment. The Foundation grant then provided for the purchase of a sound mixing board and digital recording interface. Remaining funds were set back for an additional video camera and a video mixer.

Within one year, audio broadcasts of sermons were available and had garnered nearly 1,000 hits on the website. Confirmation of the project's success continues to come in the form of listener emails from Joplin to Iowa and beyond.

What's next for The Salvage Yard? According to ministry leader, Ben Bainbridge, the next step is to make videos available for download. Future plans also include recording sessions with local artists to produce live and studio albums that will share the message of Jesus Christ.

For more information about The Salvage Yard or to download audio and video, visit [www.thesalvageyard.com](http://www.thesalvageyard.com).



Visit our website and discover what the Foundation can do for you.

- Downloadable grant applications
- Scholarship application instructions
- Free brochures in quantity
- Charitable gift annuity calculators
- Church investments
- Stock donations
- Planned giving education
- Endowment support
- Stewardship services
- Additional backoffice support

[www.mumf.org](http://www.mumf.org)



# FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH *(continued from page 1)*

1928. They would remain active members and leaders of the church for the rest of their lives.

Work on the handsome gothic structure was virtually completed by the end of 1929, but the onset of the Great Depression cast a long shadow over church finances in subsequent years. Indeed, dedication of the building would not occur until all debts were settled – an accomplishment that was finally

achieved in 1947! (Most creditors, including Epple, forgave large portions of the debt.)

The Epple Construction Company became one of the premier builders in the area with sons Robert and John, Jr. (“Jerry”) joining the firm. They built hospitals, colleges, office buildings, churches and other major projects. Known for their outstanding work in

*Bob, Jerry, and their mother wanted to ensure that the Missouri UMC would never again have to postpone maintenance on the grand, stone building...*

masonry construction, Epple Construction oversaw the dismantling, shipment and reconstruction of Christopher Wren’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury on

the campus of Westminster College in Fulton (the Churchill Memorial). They also built many of the buildings on the Stephens College campus, including the chapel designed by Earo Saarinen (the famous “arch”itect).

## **A Family Tradition**

As the Epple family grew, new generations took leadership roles in the life of the Methodist Church. Jerry’s wife, Jeanne, was the first woman to serve as lay leader at the Missouri United Methodist Church, and she has served in leadership roles on numerous conference boards and committees. Bob chaired the local church foundation for many years, and Jerry served for a time on the board of the statewide foundation. Bob’s widow, Pat, remains an active member. Although Jerry and Jeanne have retired to Kansas City, their daughter, Connie Stella, is continuing the tradition as a professional member of the staff at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City.

## **A Different Sort of Foundation**

As builders of lasting buildings, churches and families, the Epple’s have learned a thing or two about the importance of foundations of all kinds.

The *John A. and Elizabeth K. Epple Foundation* served for many years as a way for family members to direct charitable assistance to many worthy projects in central

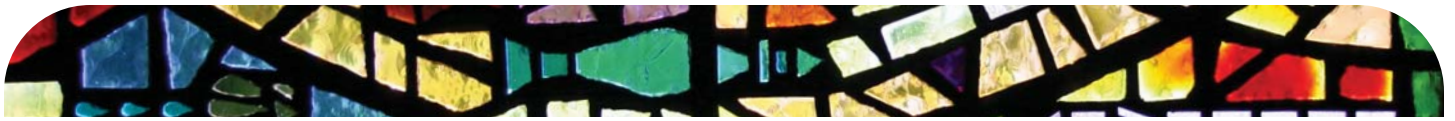


Jean & Jerry Epple



Missouri United Methodist Foundation  
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Missouri. A few years after John's death, Elizabeth and her sons decided to discontinue the family foundation. Gifts were made to the University of Missouri, Central Methodist College, Stephens College, and other causes. Jerry estimates that all the gifts made from the foundation over the years totaled about \$2 million.

Among those gifts were two made to the Missouri United Methodist Foundation benefiting churches built by Epple Construction. One gift of \$50,000 created a traditional endowment providing annual income for the benefit of the Linn Memorial United Methodist Church in Fayette. The second gift was the seed awaiting its 25-year harvest.

Bob, Jerry, and their mother wanted to ensure that the Missouri UMC would never again have to postpone maintenance on the grand, stone building at 9<sup>th</sup> and Locust streets in Columbia. Thus, the Epple gift will become a maintenance endowment for the church.

Talking about the building in an interview late in her life, Elizabeth stated, "Sometimes I don't hear the minister very well, and I just sit and look.... Isn't it lovely? I feel like it is a part of me."

Foundations seem to be important – for buildings and for people. Firm foundations of faith are part of our shared legacy as disciples of the living Christ, and we join in humble thanks for God's abundant grace. 🌿

