

## **History of Scholarship by Bob Wilson**

In 2004, the Methodist Men's organization at Davidsonville United Methodist Church decided to award one, \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving member of the Church. This same process was repeated again in 2005. As the result of a discussion at a Methodist Men's monthly breakfast meeting, It was determined that the Methodist Men had available funds to sponsor and award four, \$1,000 scholarships in 2006. It was also decided at this breakfast meeting that the these four scholarships would honor the following Methodist men for their long and tireless efforts on behalf of Davidsonville United Methodist Church; Albert Samuel Wood, Lawrence Vernon Leitch, Oscar Fay Grimes, and Rev. Paul Cummins. There were eight applicants for the four scholarships and the selection was made by the leadership of the DUMC Methodist Men's organization.

Also in 2006, the Methodist Men established a Scholarship Committee to formalize the scholarship application and winner selection process on behalf of the Methodist Men. Scholarship Guidelines were established stating that they would be awarded to members of Davidsonville United Methodist Church and/or members of the DUMC Youth Group. The purpose of the scholarship's is to assist these young people in continuing their education and to "jump start" post-high school continuing education. Key information requested in the application were: High School you graduated from and year, College or Continuing Education Institute you are attending if appropriate, Grade point average (high school, vocational center or college, as applicable), Higher-education institute that you will be attending, a faith based assessment of your financial need, and a 250-500 word essay addressing the following topics:

- What church activities are you or have you been involved in?
- What community service activities are you or have you been involved in?
- What does living your life as a Christian mean to you?
- How do you expect that continuing your education will affect your life?

These Guidelines are still in use this year as the basis for scholarship winner selection.

The quality of the applications from members of Davidsonville United Methodist Church and/or members of the DUMC Youth Group has continued to be outstanding. In 2008, three \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships were awarded. In 2009, seven outstanding applications were received and ranked. Four winners were selected by the Committee. In addition, the Tongues of Fire put up \$1,000 to fund another scholarship and Care and Nurture put up \$2,000 for scholarships for the last two applicants. In 2010, there were 7 applicants and the seven applications were evaluated and each was assigned a ranking. The top 4 were awarded the 4 scholarships named after prominent Methodist men in DUMC. In 2010, funds were also put forward by the Tongues of Fire for the William Scrimgeour Scholarship, the Brandon Weill Foundation for the Brandon Weill Memorial Scholarship and DUMC's Care and Nurture Committee for the Gwelda Price, Betty Gilbertson & Maxine George Memorial Scholarship. In 2010, the names of the four Methodist

Men's Scholarships were changed to: the Oscar Fay Grimes Scholarship, the Lawrence Vernon Leitch Memorial Scholarship, the Wood Memorial Scholarship, and the Rev. Paul Cummins Memorial Scholarship. In 2011, six \$1,000 scholarships were awarded.

In 2012, there were eight applicants and eight scholarships were awarded during worship on June 10. In 2013, there were 10 scholarship applications and nine scholarships were awarded, one of which was the DUMC Methodist Women's Scholarship. And in 2014, there were 14 applicants and six scholarships were awarded.