



Our Steward of the Month for February 2011 – Mike Yeutter

Continuing to express our appreciation to members of St. Stephen the Martyr who *“go above and beyond to serve”*, the “Steward of the Month” program for February 2011 recognizes Michael (Mike) Yeutter, currently a graduate (masters) student in Construction Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Just as the UW-Madison Lutheran Campus Ministry is centered in Jesus Christ’s embodiment of the love and grace of God, so too is Mike’s involvement as chairperson of the **Student Coordinating Committee** in this community of faith, service, worship and fellowship on the UW campus for the past five years. This committee is similar to our ELCA Church Council. It is here that Mike’s stewardship took root and continues to grow.

Joining St. Stephen the Martyr in 1991, with his parents, Robert and Joanne Yeutter and his younger brother, Nicholas, Mike was confirmed in 2001. Since that time, Mike continues to lead in his Christian faith and love of Jesus by serving as a positive role model -an example for all Stewards of Jesus Christ, especially our young adults.

In Mike’s last year in high school, the late Pastor Rich Heins encouraged Mike to become involved with campus ministry when he entered UW-Madison. Mike honored the memory of Pastor Rich by attending worship every Wednesday for the remainder of his freshman year. Over the next four years, Mike continues to honor Pastor Rich’s memory by serving on the Student Coordinating Committee of the UW-Madison Lutheran Campus Center.

One example of Mike’s stewardship is when he extended his hand of Christian fellowship and leadership through his work in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Another example occurred in January 2011 when Mike, once again, went *above and beyond* by raising the necessary funds plus supervising a team of 18 students for a 10-day service-learning trip to civil war torn El Salvador. The purpose of this two country trip –the other being Guatemala, was to learn more about the ravages from the 1980’s civil war in El Salvador and the resulting abject poverty and squalor that traps many who continue to live as homeless persons in the city named for The Savior, Jesus Christ.

Other examples of Mike’s past and present stewardship and Christian outreach includes participation and leadership in:

- **Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Madison** as President 2008-2010, he developed and led 12 student leaders who, in turn, developed new programs for this ministry; raised funds for student-learning trips, and more...
- **Lutheran Student Movement –USA** as National Vice President 2009-2010, he planned and implemented a grant program to fund university service learning trips for students; as their Regional President from Dec. 2007 to Jan. 2009, Mike developed and managed two regional retreats, and more...
- **American Society of Civil Engineers at UW-Madison Student Chapters** serving as Program Director 2007 – 2008 and, in 2007, as Outreach Chair, he developed a civil engineering high school program
- And more ...

When asked to comment about Mike, Pastor Brent D. Christianson, Director of the UW-M Lutheran Campus Center and Campus Pastor states, **“Mike is just a great guy! He is such a great example of faithfulness. He brought his great ability to organize and his trust in people to follow-through to his role as Chairperson of the Student Coordinating Committee. ... He is a good Evangelist as he helped us expand what we were doing to another level as our students have a very significant role here [Campus Ministry]. Here [at UW-Madison] we take pride in the fact that we started the Campus Ministry Program in the United States back in 1905. I can say –over the years that I’ve known Mike -and have been privileged to work with him, he is among the few student leaders who stand out! And, interestingly enough, most of our engineering students are Lutherans ... and, it seems to fit well. From little on, most budding engineers, when reading the Bible ask, ‘What does this mean and why?’ So, I guess it is true, many engineers are of the Lutheran faith because they seem to ask the same questions in the work they do. Oh, yes ... and there is this fun side to Mike. Just ask him about the trips to the ballpark ... he organizes those, too!”**

Upon learning of his selection as “Steward of the Month” Mike asked, “May I speak to the Congregation?” Pastor Gail quickly agreed. Thus, on February 12th & 13th -at each service, all in attendance will hear Mike’s reflection on what it means to be a Steward of Jesus Christ –serving others, as a university student from St. Stephen the Martyr.

Additionally, Mike reflected, “My time at the Lutheran Campus Center over the last six years has been wonderful. I have formed very close friendships with many people and always had a support no matter what I was going through in life. I have learned more about Christ and praised Him for the blessings in my life every second I can. I have also gained valuable leadership experience and learned more about myself through Lutheran Campus Ministry.”

Please join us as we extend our gratitude for Mike’s time and talent to campus ministry.

Thank you. - Your Stewardship Committee.