

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH World Communion Sunday

Here's the bottom line. Donations to **World Communion Sunday** have dwindled. That means only some of the record number of applicants are receiving scholarships, and those scholarships are significantly smaller than in the past.

The World Communion Scholarship office is getting more calls than ever from US students saying the tough economy is making it harder for them to manage educational costs. Scholarships for international students are being hit hard. Many of these students come from economically stressed countries with few financial options.

Last year, the **World Communion Sunday** offering was down, and a drop in giving is projected for this year as well.

The United Methodist Church has a long history of investing in the education of students who will one day lead the congregation and the community . Here are a few examples:

Aspiring seminary teachers need advanced theological training. This is especially true where few native people are prepared to teach at an advanced level.

Students studying clinical psychology will help people to deal with effects of post-war trauma.

Classes in law and advocacy are essential to persons with an interest in assisting immigrants.

Courses in global health, sustainable development and Christian-Muslim relations are critical to healing and uniting divided communities.

Now is the time to give. United Methodist students who have demonstrated leadership potential are losing educational opportunities because of lack of funds. These students are the future of mission for the United Methodist Church.

Pastor Carl