



*Gift*ing

First Presbyterian Church



*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

*Gift*ing

*Gift*ing is the concept of turning our musts, our shoulds, our responsibilities, and our obligations into no-strings gifts for our families, church, and community. From God's very gift of the life we each live, flows a natural desire to gift others with the abundance we have known.

Through *Gift*ing, we leave a legacy of trust and expectation that those whom we valued most in life will understand the depth of their impact upon us and be comforted in our absence.

While acknowledging our lives on earth will come to an end, for it is not if we die, but when, Christians maintain a deep belief in the resurrection, walking confidently toward it, believing our relationship with Christ continues beyond the grave.

God promised, "I will be with you always..."

When we faltered, God sent His Son...

"Peace I bring... peace I leave you."

When there was doubt, Jesus said...

"I go to prepare a place for you."

*Gift*ing is the concept that allows us to live confidently and prepare for our own deaths with assurance and peace.



Following Christ's Example

There is Christ's own example of *Gifting* to embrace. Didn't Jesus plan for his death? Loving and caring for his disciples, didn't he choose to prepare them for the events of his death and resurrection, thus strengthening them for the tasks that would follow?

In a number of ways Christ told his disciples he was going to die. By assuring his followers that God would continue to provide for them through the presence of the Holy Spirit, he equipped the people of his church with a legacy of guidance and encouragement for each other; and in giving the gift of the sacrament of communion at the Last Supper, Christ left us a way to honor his sacrifice and death.

By example then, we are led to prepare for our own deaths, remembering that all that we have, all that we are, all that we will ever be has been loaned to us by God with the expectation that we partner with God towards God's goals. Jesus spoke boldly of money and possessions. He recognized that both good and evil could come from having them, and as his followers came together, Jesus offered clear guidance:

*Love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all
your soul, and with all your
mind...love your neighbor as
yourself.*

Matthew 22: 37-39



A Living Tradition of Gifting

And so—over two hundred years ago—saints who went before us gathered together to begin the story of First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, keeping before them this teaching of Jesus. It begins with Old Stone Church, and continues with the combined Loudon Street and Kent Street congregations growing into a body of worshipers who remembered that Jesus gave the Great Commission to his followers:

*Go therefore to all nations and make
them my disciples; baptize them in the
name of the Father and the Son and the
Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe
all that I have commanded you.*

Matthew: 28: 19-20

Mindful of these words of Jesus by which they felt gifted, members husbanded their resources, grew the Synod of Virginia, and hosted the General Assembly. By 1900, as one congregation meeting on Loudon Street, they planted other churches in the Valley. Their dedication created a legacy of strong mission outreach and community involvement we feel privileged to honor even today. Indeed, the very words of the Great Commission provide the framework by which First Presbyterian Church governs itself and stewards the gifts given to the church—*serving Christ and neighbor in Winchester and beyond.*



Living a Gifted Life

Participating in a loving and caring church also urges us, even while living fully, to prepare for our deaths. We recall the importance of the church's ministry and mission in our lives and have hope that they will serve another generation. It falls naturally that we consider First Presbyterian Church in our end of life planning.



The church has meant more to me and my faith than I can fully express; so, of course, I want to leave it a solid bequest to help...

Betty Burkholder

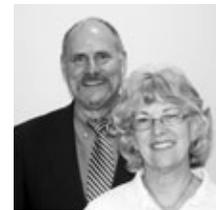


Quite simply, it never occurred to Paul and me not to include First Presbyterian in our will. We have seen some wonderful projects, both large and small, thanks to the final gifts of others...it's a great way to leave on a high note with one last good deed.

Ann T. Burkholder



Bequests are silent testimonials of the heart.



Making a gift to the church in our will is a way of continuing those commitments Lynn and I have found important in our life. We often think of making gifts to our college or a charitable organization important to us. Our bequest to the church reaffirms our commitment to put God at the center of our life and insure that the work of serving Christ and neighbor continues.

Rich Reifsnyder



When should I consider making a gift to the Church?

Whenever plans are being made to meet with an estate planner or an attorney to prepare end of life documents such as a will, health care power of attorney, durable power of attorney, living will or trust, we can seek the Lord's guidance. Recalling Christ's example of preparing his disciples for his death, we can more assuredly prepare for our own death. By *Gifting* others with our legacy of prior planning, we will feel gifted ourselves.

By writing provisions into our wills which bequest a portion of our accumulated assets, we are continuing the partnership we so valued during our lifetimes.



It is a privilege to gift back to the church a portion of the blessings that I have received in life. God has been so good to my family. It is only right that we leave a legacy to the church. What better investment can we make than in the people and mission of the church?

Lynn McCauley

How do I leave a gift to the Church?

Just as we plan for the welfare of our families and communities in life, we plan for the health of our church community through our pledges and other gifts. Many times we struggle to do all this, but the yearning to tithe nags at us, and we continue to reach.

Gifting First Presbyterian Church can be accomplished through provisions when we have our will drawn, or codicils added to an existing will.



Ways to Gift First Presbyterian Church

BEQUESTS

Made through a provision in a will as it is drawn, or added as a codicil to an existing will, bequests can be for a stated amount (or an estate percentage), and can be undesignated or designated.

PROPERTIES

Residences, land, commercial use property, or other real property may be gifted directly or through a bequest.

INSURANCE

The church may be named beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or the policy may be gifted directly to the church.

SECURITIES

This most common form of non-cash charitable gift includes both stocks and bonds, which may be given by legal transfer.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

This form of planned giving provides an annual income for the donor with the remainder specified to the church.

How will the Church use my gift?

As with all annual and special gifts, bequests can be designated or non-designated, and provide an opportunity to continue our witness for those ministries of the church we deemed important while we lived. They can even be designed to maintain our pledge. Past bequests have been used in ways such as developing a master architectural plan for First Church, providing a worship celebration, installing a handicapped elevator, doing major building repairs, providing pew Bibles, enhancing the music program, and giving seminary scholarships.

Administered by the Board of Trustees, there are a variety of funds organized to receive such bequests:

Building Debt Reduction Fund

Already, the \$7.2 million investment in building additions and improvements completed in 2008 are benefiting First Presbyterian's ministry with increased participation and attendance. The church was blessed with a recent bequest from a long time member which enabled us to reduce our debt by \$500,000. Additional gifts of any amount to eliminate the mortgage are a priority.

Living Memorial Fund

Funded by gifts to the church in memory and gratitude for the lives of those persons who have recently died, its purchases have enhanced our worship and congregational life. Examples are the recently acquired podium in Fellowship Hall and the seasonal paraments in the Sanctuary.

Growth and Development

Insures that physical facilities entrusted for use in worship, education, and service will be thoughtfully maintained and tended. Major portions in recent years have been used for capital expansion, but they have also allowed for the sanctuary renovations, upgrading of electrical and lighting systems, roof repairs, and expansion of air conditioning into older sections of our buildings.

Mission and Benevolence

Christ's call to serve others is at the heart of this fund. Recently, it has supported the work of several medical clinics in Ethiopia, both domestic and international mission trips, a Habitat for Humanity House, the work of CCAP, and the annual Thanksgiving dinner with the Salvation Army.

Education and Scholarship

The Presbyterian tradition calls for an emphasis on education. This fund has supported students attending Massanetta Bible and Music Conferences, scholarships for college and seminary students, the God's Energy for Women Workshop, and a performance of Tattered and Worn: A Humorous Look at the Bible by Ted and Company.

Worship and Congregational Life

Supporting congregational worship and fellowship, it also provides encouragement of the church's music program and, in recent years, has supported major musical presentations during the Advent and Lenten seasons with Wilson Sunday. Additionally, it has provided Advent wreath stands, new candelabra, a seminar by noted church musician, John Bell, seed funding for the New Stone worship service, and purchase and maintenance of musical instruments, most specifically, the organ.

The Weekday School Fund

The long-standing program for pre-school age children is the NAECY accredited Weekday School. This fund supports building use, education equipment and resources, scholarship support for students, and has partnered in the creation of a new state-of-the-art playground.

Gifts

First Presbyterian Church

Start the conversation

- YES** I have included First Presbyterian Church in my estate plans.
- YES** I'd like to consider including First Presbyterian Church in my estate plans.

Members of the First Presbyterian Church staff or Special Gift Team are prepared to meet confidentially with any who are considering *Gifts* the church.

Please provide the following information:

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Those wishing to know more details about *Gifts* possibilities should contact the church office, at 540-662-3824.

**Serving Christ
and Neighbor
in the heart
of Winchester
and beyond
since 1800**



First Presbyterian Church
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