

Legacies



Spring, 2011

Gift planning ideas for members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia

Giving “In Loving Memory” The All Saints Fund

In the fall of 2010, a dear member of our regional family, Mrs. Lois Drum, asked to find a way to make a gift in memory of her beloved husband, Jim. She wanted to be able to honor his memory and at the same time uphold the deep and lasting love and appreciation she and Jim have always held for the Church.

The Drum’s faithful stewardship bore witness often through the years to the commitment they shared, and this particular gift is one designed to continue bearing fruit for the Regional Church in future generations. The name of James Drum will be remembered by those who carry on the ministries of the Church because of this act of loving memory.

With her gift, the All Saints Fund was established and opened for others who, like Lois, desire to invest in the Region’s work in an ongoing way.

The All Saints Fund for Regional Ministry is designed specifically to assist the region in fulfilling its work of pastoral care and oversight in West Virginia and Allegany County, Maryland. Monies placed within the fund are managed by the Christian Church Foundation, and distributions are made quarterly to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia for unrestricted use.

To learn more about how you can give in memory of a loved one to the future ministries of the Christian Church in West Virginia, please contact Rev. David Chafin, at (304)428-1681, See further information also on page 3.

Encouragement from Local Stewards

Congregation’s capital campaign for new building builds on faithful stewardship principles.

Every congregation has a story, and United Disciples of Christ Church in Charleston is beginning a new chapter with the building plans for their new home on Corridor G. The prominent location offers many creative possibilities for the future.

The congregation has begun a campaign to fund the first phase of the work, and it is gaining support. The testimony of Ray and Mary Uhl appeared in the church’s recent publication:

It took several weeks of discussion and prayer for us to decide on the final amount. Every time we talked about it we felt the need to do more. We would suggest a number then leave it a few days while we prayed.

We have a pension and Social Security, and Mary works part-time for the West Virginia Region. Our income doesn’t increase very much very often. And we have a 9 year old, high mileage car, a less than trustworthy hot water tank, and a leaky roof. During most months, there are days left after the money runs out.

Ray is on the Campaign Committee, and we

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Estate Planning & the Church

Most Disciples are accustomed to the offering plate being passed each week, and dropping in a check or cash with an offering envelope. These individual outright expressions of thankfulness to God as part of being faithful stewards enable the Church to serve and witness.

But how many Disciples include a gift to the Church and her ministries with a bequest in their Last Will and Testament? The actual numbers are unknown, but are likely few in comparison to the published reports about the generous dollars left to colleges, universities and other not-for-profits.

The Church has played an important role in our lives. It has helped shape our values and our morals, and has taught us about God's love and salvation. The Church is where we celebrate births, baptisms and weddings, and remember fondly those family members and other saints who have gone on before. The Church is how we have lived out the ministry and witness of Jesus Christ, serving people in need and reaching out. The Church is where we gather weekly around the Lord's Table — and remember. The Church, itself, is a gift we have inherited.

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to the Church. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird the Church's ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue vital ministries.

Christians also can use their estates to demonstrate one final act of stewardship. Our possessions are gifts from God, and God has intended for us to use them wisely throughout our lifetimes. Through our estate plans, we can provide for our loved ones while also making a faithful distribution back to God to further God's work. We will be remembered by our giving.

A gift to the Church through your will serves as a testament to your heirs of your faith in God and the resurrection. It provides you with one last opportunity to exemplify what it means to be a good steward, providing for others as God has provided for you during your lifetime. What a blessing you

can be to future generations!

Want to learn more? Contact Rev. Darwin Collins, our Zone Representative and Vice President of the Christian Church Foundation, who can listen to your hopes and dreams for the ministries you love the most, and provide you with information that will help you distribute your estate in a way that reflect your priorities and is truly a testament to your life.

When a Permanent Fund is the Best Option

Sometimes people fear a gift left to a congregation will create problems for leaders or hinder regular giving. The Christian Church Foundation works with congregations to help them be worthy recipients and to manage these gifts by establishing a sound and prudent permanent fund policy so that they can be a blessing.

Individuals have another option, too: They can create a named permanent fund at the Christian Church Foundation.

The Foundation was established so that Disciples could have a place to make estate and planned gifts that could distribute dollars for ministry in perpetuity. Funded during lifetime or at death, the fund can make annual distributions to the congregation or ministry of the donor's choosing. The permanent fund is very useful for individuals who want to benefit multiple ministries and charities, including ones not affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The process is simple: The individual completes a "Permanent Fund Gift Agreement." In this agreement, the donor:

- Provides the name of the fund
- Identifies the church, ministry and/or other charities the donor wants distributions to benefit.

As the donor's interests and needs change, a revised gift agreement can be completed simply and without cost. There's no need to make a change in the donor's Last Will & Testament. Contact Rev. Collins or the Regional Office for more information, or return panel on right page.

All Saints Fund

Memorial gifts to the All Saints Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia have been given to honor the lives of:

Madison Ann Allen

*by Thaddaeus B. & Jennifer R. Allen
Theodore & Amanda Feitt
Earl & Vivian Shaw*

Douglas Butts

by Jo Ann Butts

James D. Drum

by Lois Drum

Margaret Ann Green

*by Judie M. Church
Dwight & Patricia Harris*

John Grimes

by Charles R. & Gertrude Mumper

Janice Hassig

by Fawn & Jim Price

Dr. Coleman Hatfield

by Joel A. Potts, III

J. Thomas Higgins

by Bessie Higgins

Nellie Thurman

by Judie M. Church

Lacy Tredway

by Betty Tredway

Rev. Dr. Fred Warren

*by Wilcox Wedding Party
Thaddaeus B. & Jennifer R. Allen*

You are urged to use the panel at right to establish a Name of Honor (\$25 minimum) in the Fund, or to contribute in any amount to above Names of Honor.

SENIORS:

Want to give a gift that will sustain the Church for years to come, and creates a stream of payments for you and/or a loved one for life?

A **Charitable Gift Annuity** may be one option that would make this possible. Contact us for information (at right). Not available in all states. Not insured or guaranteed. Offered for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia solely through the Christian Church Foundation.

For more information

on any of the topics discussed in this newsletter, simply complete, detach, and mail this panel to:

*Christian Church in West Virginia
1402 Washington Ave.
Parkersburg, WV 26101*

or

Email: dchafin@wvdisciples.org

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (____) _____

Best time to call: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Email: _____

____ **I have named the Christian Church in West Virginia** in my will.

____ **I have named my congregation** in my will.

____ **I would like the Christian Church Foundation** to contact me.

____ **I would like to establish a Name(s) of Honor** within the All Saints Fund of the Region (\$25 minimum), in memory of:

____ **I would like to contribute to the All Saints Fund** memorial for an existing Name(s) of Honor:

in the amount of \$ _____.

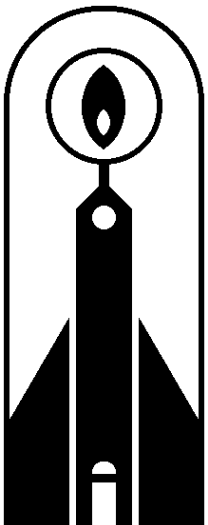
____ **Please send information** on establishing a **Charitable Gift Annuity** with the Christian Church in West Virginia.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
1402 Washington Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

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Parkersburg WV 26101
Permit # 158

Local Stewards, continued...



Legacies is published for friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia by the Region and by the Christian Church Foundation. It is designed to point out current developments that may be helpful in your tax and financial planning. Not all gift instruments are available in every state. You should consult your own attorney or financial advisors.

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