



People have made at least a start at understanding the meaning of life when they plant trees under which they know full well they will never sit.

-Adapted from David Elton Trueblood
20th cent. American Quaker author & theologian

Message from Priest Lisa

St. John's is blessed to have a faithful team of members who have worked hard over the past few years establishing a "Legacy Fund." This fund creates an opportunity for each of us to designate gifts for the church in our wills as well opportunities to name SJP as a beneficiary of additional future assets. We believe this is an important component of our long-term financial health and viability creating a sustainable source of income supporting ministry and mission in the future. Thank you for helping us plant seeds today to grow St. John's tomorrow!

You are loved, **Priest Lisa**

What is planned giving?

The simplest form of planned giving is designating a percentage of your estate as a gift for the church in your will.

Why is planned giving important?

It helps ensure a secure financial future for the church.

What about my children?

While leaving our inheritance to our children is important, the truth is that our heirs need to have us model philanthropic giving hence by gifting a portion to the church we are setting an example for them to follow.

What will happen to the gift I make?

Any funds designated as a gift to St. John's Legacy Fund through a will or trust, cash, check, securities, etc. will be invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) for future growth.

As the Legacy fund reaches predetermined investment levels, a percentage of the annual gain will be available for ministry.

What is the Legacy Society?

When members of St. John's let the leadership know that they would like to designate a gift for the church in their will or trust, they will be given a form to complete and file with the church. Once a gift has been designated, the donor will become a member of St. John's Legacy Society. Every member of the parish is invited and encouraged to become a member.

Why should we do this?

We are called to be temporary stewards of all that we are entrusted with throughout our lifetime. Being intentional about those resources after we are no longer here is a natural extension of who we are called to be in this lifetime. If we truly believe that everything we have is a gift from God, then it only makes sense to return a portion of that gift when our life ends.

Legacy Giving

Why do less than 2% of Christians leave deferred gifts to their church?

Studies report that the top two answers are:

- They have not been asked!
- They do not know how!

We are asking!

Many of us procrastinate around end of life arrangements including estate planning. We don't want to think about death or feel we don't have a large enough estate to need a plan. When an estate plan is created, it reduces the risk of facing long and costly probate for our heirs as well as continues our desire to be lifelong generous donors. In the end, it is not at its core about the money – it is about stewardship and returning a portion of our blessings to God so that others may benefit and grow in the church and further God's works.

Another way to look at it is, if you designate in your will that the church is the beneficiary of 1% of the value of your estate then for every \$100 the church would receive \$1 and the other beneficiaries (children, for example) would receive \$99. Gift planning is the response each of us makes in faith as we count the many wonderful ways we are blessed.

Here's How!

Planned Giving through St. John's Legacy Fund.

When preparing your Estate Plan please consider a gift to St. John's. Giving to the Church through your will is the most common way to continue your support beyond your lifetime. St. John's Legacy Fund was set up to allow for the growth of the Church into the future. Charitable gifts may take many forms; a bequest by will or trust, cash, check, securities, personal property and life insurance to name a few.

The Legacy Society membership form can be found on line at our website: stjohnsplymouth.org (under the stewardship tab), or by contacting our Director of Operations, Sue Booth (sbooth@stjohnsplymouth.org). You may return the completed form to Priest Lisa or Sue Booth.

During the month of February, we will have a number of opportunities to learn more, ask questions, meet with members of the Legacy Board and join others in becoming a member of this important ministry.

- Sunday, Jan 18, 11:00 - Legacy Board hosting Community Hour (Parish Hall)**
- Sunday, Feb 1, 11:00 - Legacy Board presentation (Gathering)**
- Sunday, Feb 15, 11:00 - Legacy Board follow up one-on-one conversations (Gathering)**

If you have any questions please contact any member of the Legacy Board, or Priest Lisa.

NOTE: This material is for information purposes only. Please consult your professional advisor for specific guidance in your individual situation.