



Seeding the Future:

The Legacy Circle at The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill





According to the dictionary, a legacy is “something that is handed down or remains from a previous generation.” I think of Jean Baber who loved the brunches after worship. I knew her only a year before she died but was thrilled when the church received a legacy from Jean that continues to underwrite the hospitality at PCCH. Though I was not privileged to know the Schmidts, the legacy Jim and Marion left to the church now helps to support our annual budget and, in the leanest years, has saved us from entering the New Year in the red. In memory of Bill Gemmill, whose leadership of this church tragically was cut short in the prime of his life, a legacy was given anonymously to begin the William Gemmill Building Sustaining Fund, without which we could not begin to care responsibly for our church home. The legacy left to us by another anonymous living saint led us to open the Center on the Hill and to multiply our care of older members in the church. The legacy left by Kay Matthews and Ann Siner literally turned darkness into light, funding the retirement of our debt as well as adding to the income that now supports the ministry and mission of the church.

*“What more should I say?” exclaimed the writer of Hebrews. For time would fail me to tell of all the saints whose courage, wisdom and generosity have given us such a legacy! Deeply aware of our responsibility to hand the faith and the church on to the generation that will succeed us, **I encourage you to become a part of The Legacy Circle of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill.***

- Cynthia A. Jarvis, Minister



Spiritual Partnering Across Generations

We are all indebted to the past, to those who precede us. We drink from wells we have not dug, we enjoy liberties we have not won, we share faith whose foundations we have not laid. At the same time, we are seeds of the future, for those who succeed us. We dream and envision and set things in motion. The fruition of our decisions will be known only to others who we will not meet. We are called to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we have to give to those who will follow.

Planned Giving offers the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith through a charitable gift which will build on and extend our church’s ministry for generations to come. Our congregation is an inclusive community of faith, committed to excellence in worship, music and the arts, education, and outreach. Planned giving is one way we can ensure that this commitment remains strong into the future, to ensure the long-term security, viability, and vitality of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill.

“Planned giving creates a model for our children. It bears witness to our priorities.”

What is a Planned Gift?

- A planned gift is a form of charitable giving made in the context of your estate planning. Since estate planning is the process of managing your accumulated assets for the present and future, a planned gift is included in a written statement of your overall intentions for your resources.
- When carried out with discernment, a planned gift becomes part of your expression of your deepest values and an extension of spiritual practice.
- Through such an act of stewardship you can create the kind of legacy you would like to leave here at The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill.
- Planned gifts take many forms, some of the most popular being a gift conveyed in a will or a charitable gift annuity. You can also use an IRA or an insurance policy to make a planned gift.

What are the advantages of a Planned Gift?

For the giver:

- Creation of a legacy which expresses the giver's deepest convictions.
- It need not diminish current income or current assets.
- Potential tax advantages for you and your heirs.
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the future of The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill and its ministry for generations to come.

For The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill:

- Endowment gifts serve as an enduring source of support for the growth of ministries at The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, and you can designate gifts to support specific areas of our ministry (music, mission, building, worship, etc.)
- Growing endowments provide financial stability for the future of The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill..
- Each commitment to the future is a building block toward a stronger church family and community today.

How will my gift be used?

You may let those who will lead our church in future years decide how best to use the gift in their time, or you may choose to direct your gift to a specialized endowment fund which supports the area of ministry you regard as particularly important:

- General Endowment Fund: Includes all unrestricted endowment gifts given to The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. Proceeds provide support to the work of the Church as interpreted and allocated by the sitting Session.
- Gemmill Building Sustaining Fund: Provides funding for the maintenance and renewal of the Church's building and grounds.
- Music Endowment: Provides funds to support the Church's worship, music and other arts.

- Senior Adult Ministry Endowment: Provides funds to support the Senior Adult Associate Minister and programming for senior adults.

Other Endowments might be established based on the desire of the planned giver.

Consultation on Planned Giving

Cindy Jarvis would be pleased to meet with you as you begin your deliberations concerning a planned gift to the church. A member of our Planned Giving Committee member is also available to assist you in reviewing the various forms which planned giving can take and to provide materials to help you develop a working understanding of the financial, tax, and estate planning considerations involved in such a gift.

Another valuable source of information and assistance is the Presbyterian Foundation, which specializes in Planned Giving.

In all circumstances, however, you should consult with your own legal and/or financial advisor as you begin to finalize your giving plans. If you do not have a financial advisor, a member of the Planned Giving Committee can provide you with a list of such professionals recommended by other Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill members who have consulted them for these purposes.

We hope that you consider joining the Legacy Circle to “seed the future” at PCCH.

“Imagine the annual stewardship of this congregation’s children and grandchildren going directly to the church’s mission because the endowment is able to sustain the day to day expenses of the church. Each of us, no matter our current income, can be part of securing an abundant future for the Church we love through legacy giving.”

“It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of all shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” Matthew 13:32

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