

Morning Star Legacy Society
of
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Stone Harbor, New Jersey

Planned Giving



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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*Creating a Tradition of Giving
by Leaving a Legacy
of Your Stewardship*

*Presented by St. Mary's
Morning Star Legacy Society*

Investing in St. Mary's Church

As active, involved members of St. Mary's, we support the mission and ministry of our church through the investments of our time, talent and treasure. We support St. Mary's financially through our annual stewardship campaign and our outreach and service efforts.

We would like to think that we are good stewards, responsibly managing our lives and property, leaving a legacy for others. Indeed all that we are, and all that we have, comes as a gift from God. As good stewards, we are caretakers of these gifts for a brief period of time. What we do with what we have expresses what we believe and ultimately defines the character of our lives.

Some of us would like to do more for St. Mary's Church in Stone Harbor, but the demands of everyday life on our time and resources keep us from doing and giving more at the present time.



Leaving a Legacy

How we live each day, the lessons we teach through our lives, the values we pass on, the beliefs we not only expound but act upon, and how we support these values, lessons and beliefs – this is our legacy.

A planned gift to St. Mary's sends a message about our legacy. We are saying, "This Church is an important part of my life. It has been there when I needed it and I want to make sure it is there for you and others. No matter where you live, giving something back to your church is an important Christian tradition."

Jesus said:

***"Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap; for the
measure you give will be the
measure you get back."***

Luke 6:38

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is simply the thoughtful preparation for the distribution of one's temporal goods. It is a way for those concerned with the wise use of their personal resources to make a considered choice about giving some of their assets to the church. In other words, it is a way to make sure our "stuff" goes where we want it to go; a way to provide for family members while remembering the family at St. Mary's as well.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Psalm 96:8

What Can Planned Gifts Do?

Planned gifts can –

- Strengthen the church's financial future;
- Support a program especially important to you;
- Remember a loved one or friend;
- Strengthen and enlarge the church's outreach giving;
- Continue your tradition of giving through the bequest of your annual pledge.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season...

Psalm 1:3

How Can I Do This?

There are several common ways to make planned gifts:

- Remember St. Mary's in your will.
- Make St. Mary's the owner or beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Make a life income gift such as a pooled income fund or a charitable gift annuity where you gift principal to St. Mary's but receive an income for life.
- Give appreciated property such as securities or real estate.
- Ask an attorney or planned giving specialist for more sophisticated plans such as charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts and a life estate.

However you choose to make your gift, check with your attorney and accountant regarding the tax benefits of your gift.

What's The Next Step?

- If you'd like to make a planned gift and you have spoken about this with your family, speak to one of the clergy who will discuss your interest and put you in contact with a member of the Legacy Society who will provide you with more information.
- Speak to an attorney
- Make your gift

"And other seeds fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty-fold and sixty-fold and a hundred-fold."

Mark 4:8-9

Where Does My Gift Go?

All planned gifts to St. Mary's are professionally managed and held in St. Mary's Legacy Society Fund. The purpose of this fund is to enable St. Mary's to completely fulfill its mission by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating fund.

**St. Mary's
Morning Star
Legacy Society**



The Legacy Society is a way of honoring those who have remembered St. Mary's with a planned gift. Each year, those who have made a documented planned gift within the last year will be recognized at the annual meeting, unless requested otherwise, and have their names formally added to the roll of the St. Mary's Legacy Society with a star placed on our Legacy Society's plaque in the parish hall.

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

*--The Book of Common Prayer
page 445)*