

leave your *lasting legacy* for generations to come

LEGACY GIVING

The impetus for special giving—through legacies or extraordinary one-time gifts—is the same that motivates us to provide our regular annual support: *God has generously blessed us*. Anything we give, in whatever form, is in response to those rich blessings. Legacy giving is giving that allows you to continue your support of The Episcopal Church of the Ascension beyond your lifetime and into the future. It joins you in a long tradition of people who have provided for our Church beyond its present needs.



Ascension would not exist, certainly not in its present form and potential, if it were not for the forward-looking generosity of all those legacy and special-gift donors who gave in the past. In that sense, all such gifts are legacies, in that they ensure the Church's future fiscal health, essential to the future fulfillment of the Church's mission here in Hickory NC.

HOW TO GIVE

Most legacy and special gifts to Ascension are made without restrictions on their use, allowing the Vestry to apply the gifts where the need is greatest. Other gifts are made to honor and support a ministry of the Church (e.g., music, outreach, facilities, altar guild, etc.) or to make a purchase that will fulfill a specific need.

For those donors who want to direct a gift toward a particular purpose, the Rector can work with you and find ways to associate your gift with your special interest, while keeping in mind the Church's overall needs.

Some ways that you can participate in legacy and other special givings are:

- **Current Gifts of Appreciated Assets such as Real Estate or Securities; Current Gifts of Cash or Other Assets** — given now with potential tax advantages. A Stock Gift Request Form is available on the backside of this document, at www.ascensionhickory.org (follow the "Forms" link), or from the church office.
- **Bequests** — a gift made in your will, either a specific dollar amount, a specific asset, or a percentage of your overall estate.
- **Retirement Plan Assets** – a specific dollar amount or percentage of the amount remaining in your retirement account at your death.
- **Life Insurance** – where you designate the Church to be the beneficiary of an existing policy.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity** – where you fund an annuity that gives you income for life, with the remainder going to the Church.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – where your gift goes into a trust that pays you income during your life, with the remainder going to the Church.

Your individual needs and estate planning goals will determine the type of giving that best suits your circumstances. The Rector can talk with you in confidence about the various options, and you would act only after thorough discussion with your legal and tax advisors.