

## About Legacy Giving ...

### The Cares Legacy Gift



When you admire one of the many flowering shrubs on the church grounds or sit in the shade of a tree during outdoor worship this summer, know that a Legacy Gift in memory of Marian and Charles “Chuck” Cares helps make that possible.

They, along with their children Chris, Sue, John and Alison, became members of First Pres in 1959. Chuck was a landscape architect who taught at UM. They admired the natural beauty of the church

grounds. Marian died in 2008, and Chuck in 2010. At her dad’s memorial service, Sue remembers a friend commenting on the fact that she saw both a ruby throated hummingbird and a wood thrush that September afternoon.

The Cares children made this gift to First Pres intending to help preserve and maintain the church grounds. They started by commissioning an updated landscape plan. Since then there have been enhancements to the grounds including pruning and replacing trees and shrubs. Gifts like this one make so many of the wonderful aspects of First Pres possible.

### From Lisa Pashjerg, Legacy Partner

My brother Joe, the certified financial planner, says, “When I talk to long-time clients whom I know really well about what they want to do with their estate, I ask them to think about what matters to them and where they have been putting their money up until now. It often becomes very clear as we look at the numbers that they have been giving to their church for many years. I’ll then say to them something like, ‘Well, you’ve been giving a portion of your income every week for most of your life to the work of the church, why would you not do that now?’”



At this stage in our life, it’s hard to know what size our estate might be but it’s easy to know that we want to continue to support the work of the church with some percentage of what remains after we are gone. We feel blessed to be a part of this congregation, this community of wonderful souls trying to be the best Christians they can be, and believe that the work of the church is invaluable. We want to do everything we can to continue it long after we are gone.

## Endowment & Special Gifts



*Carol and I have journeyed in faith with the First Pres family since 1992. We feel blessed by the leadership of our pastors and staff, the commitment to mission (local and international), the passion for learning, and the support of friends. Making a legacy gift to First Pres is a commitment that goes beyond our annual pledge. It reflects our desire to help ensure that the missions, worship practices, leaders, and community remain in place for future generations.*

Doug Gottliebse



Dear Friends,

Thank you for considering an endowment or special gift to First Presbyterian Church! There is no better testimony to our gratitude to God than our wanting to continue to support God's work beyond our time on this earth. This support can be to undergird ministries that glorify God through faithful worship; teach the faith to children and new believers of all ages; care for those who are ill, grieving, homeless, or frightened; and welcome college students, new residents, and all people in finding grace and hope at First Pres. Gifts also can help us maintain our magnificent facility, which becomes more costly as it ages. You can do all that as a Legacy Partner!

All of us are beneficiaries of gifts given by past good and faithful stewards. Because of the generosity of those who have come before us, we have a landmark building to call our church home. We have learned the great stories of the Bible from dedicated teachers, and have been challenged and nourished by the word preached and the sharing of the sacraments. We have been cheered on in good times and comforted on difficult days. Now it is our turn to provide for those who will follow us, figuratively to plant trees that will give shade to our children and grandchildren, to ensure that they will have opportunities like we have had: to hold a candle against the darkness while singing *Silent Night*; to shout 'He is risen!' on Easter morning; to thrill to the sounds of great choral works; to know the joy of giving to God.

This brochure contains information for carrying out your wishes. There are many areas of the church's life and outreach that benefit from gifts over and above what is provided through regular pledges. Any of our pastors would be happy to talk with you about any area of the church and our ministry. We rejoice at the grace you have known in your life that calls you to give back in a sustaining way.

Your example inspires us all to live the faith we profess in more than words, to live our faith in deeds. Bless you – and thank you.

- The Endowment & Special Gifts Committee

## What Is a Will and Why Is it Important?

A Last Will and Testament is a legal document that is made during one's lifetime to designate the distribution of assets after death. Specific bequests may be made to family members and others. Charitable bequests are often included for religious organizations or favorite charities. Making such bequests may reduce taxes and lower expenses in the administration of an estate.

## How Do I Become a Legacy Partner?

Let us know that you have included First Pres in your estate plans! A legacy gift is a contribution that is arranged in the present for future distribution. Commonly designated through a will or trust, planned gifts are most often passed to the recipient after a donor's death. Making a gift to First Presbyterian Church is simple and straightforward. Details on special gifts and planned giving may be found at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org). Click on CONTRIBUTE. Under Donate, click on Legacy Partners/Planned Gifts. If you have questions about planned giving, please contact Finance Manager Anna Miller at 662-4466, ext. 344 or [amiller@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:amiller@firstpresbyterian.org).

## Is There a Minimum Gift?

All gifts are gratefully accepted. No gift is too small.

## How Will My Gift Be Used?

Your gift will be used as you request – either designated for a specific purpose or one that is undesignated and will support a variety of needs for the church. Throughout our more than 190 year history, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor has received many gifts, large and small. These generous gifts have helped to support vibrant and meaningful worship and music; ministries targeted for youth, campus, and mature members; heartfelt pastoral care; a model Resident Ministry program; and local, national and international mission outreach. Additionally, bequests and special gifts help sustain the integrity of our historic Sanctuary and facilities and help fund new and innovative outreach opportunities that expand the ministries of our church.

