

Considering Your Legacy

Do you ever wonder where you will be or how you will be remembered in 20 years, 50 years, or even 100 years? The noted paleontologist, Stephen Jay Gould, commented that “we pass through this world but once.” He observed that whether as individuals or as society, we need to do all that we can to celebrate life; to provide education, opportunity and hope to the world; and to build a legacy that highlights the creativity and reveals the beauty within every soul.

Legacies that endure through time are not the product of coincidence. Legacies are created through conscious decisions. Legacies are the work of individuals and organizations who acknowledge God’s abundant gifts, who understand their obligation to communities separated both by distance and time, and who combine caring with conscience. Each of us benefits from and is connected by the legacies passed down from our ancestors and the legacies we create on behalf of those who will come after us.

St. Matthew’s celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007. As current members, we benefit from the foresight and dedication of many who gave birth to and built our Church community. As we look forward 20, 50 or even 100 years, we need to consider what our Church community at those distant, milestone dates will say of our efforts to build upon the legacy of our first 50 years.

During the coming months, we will be re-introducing the St. Matthew’s Endowment Program. The program encourages adult members to establish a “long-term” financial plan. It also encourages members to consider the vital role these same “long-term” resources can play to create a “planned giving” program that is consistent with the fiscal interests of the donor and also to preserve, strengthen and expand the ministry of SMUMC. As you learn more about this program, we ask that you prayerfully consider a place for the Endowment Program in your “long-term” estate plan. Only through your hands can we create and sustain a legacy that celebrates the vision of past members and fulfills our responsibility to those we may never meet in the future.