



LIVING STONES II

BUILDING A SOUND FUTURE

CREATIVE GIFT PLANNING

Many of us are experienced at stewardship to the mission and ministry of Saint Mark's. Many of us provide from our current resources—checking and savings—to supply our support of the church. Often, however, gifts for capital campaigns are contributed in ways other than cash and checkbook. Let's think outside the conventional box and be creative in our giving.

Gifts of Appreciated Investments

Donations of appreciated long-term stocks, mutual funds, or other investments are an excellent way to support our church. When you donate appreciated investments, you do not pay capital gains tax, and you receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value on the date of the donation.

Gifting from an IRA

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can make a tax free Qualified Charitable Distribution to the church from your IRA. The distribution must be made directly from your IRA to the church and it may be applied to your Required Minimum Distribution.

Bundling

With the significant increase of the standard deduction, there's a reduced incentive to itemize. Since you must itemize to claim a charitable deduction, consider "bundling" your charitable gift. With bundling, you simply alter the timing of your giving so that you exceed the standard deduction and reap a tax deduction. For example, instead of donating \$5,000 annually for each of three years, consider giving \$15,000 all at once. It's the same gift as before, but if you coordinate it with your other potential deductions, you may be able to take advantage of the deduction in a year you itemize.

Life Insurance

You may consider donating existing life insurance by making the church both the owner and the beneficiary of the policy. If the policy is whole (ordinary) life insurance, you will receive an immediate tax deduction for the cash value on your federal income tax, and, if you continue to pay future premiums, can take future deductions.

Lifestyle Giving

Another way to generate gifts for our campaign is to consider lifestyle adjustments. Postponing the purchase of an automobile or remodeling of a home, are all ways to "find money" in order to make a generous gift.

Real Property as a Charitable Gift

There are two main methods for real estate to be given as a charitable gift. The first is an outright gift of the property. This is the simplest, most direct method resulting in the most immediate tax benefit. The second method involves bequests either through one's will, establishment of trusts or annuities. For the latter there are various tax benefits depending upon the specifics of the bequest and upon the individual's life circumstances and desires.

***Note:** Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral cannot give legal advice. You are encouraged to consult your professional advisor before implementing any of the above plans.*



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“Not Equal Gifts, But Equal Generosity”

You may hear the phrase “*Not equal gifts, but equal generosity*” used in our **Living Stones II: Building a Sound Future** Campaign, but what does this mean? The first part of the phrase means that there will be various dollar amounts dedicated through our campaign; however, no comparisons will be made among what each of us is willing to give for our church.

But what about “generosity”? Truly generous giving is the act of making sacred or setting apart our financial resources for God in ways that are of significance to us. It means to dedicate that which is precious to us for that which we value deeply—the future of our cathedral and its ministries.

The Scriptures make it clear that God measures our gifts not in relationship to others, but in relationship to the degree of individual generosity based on how one has been blessed. St. Paul said, “For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has.” [2 Corinthians 8:12] And Jesus said, “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.” [Luke 12:48]

Each of us must seek God’s guiding, confident that God will lead us in discerning how we can best give. As you make your commitments to our capital campaign, give thanks, for, as St. Paul said, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God!” [2 Corinthians 9:11]

You may use the chart below to easily calculate the total of a certain gift over a 3-year period. It shows how an amount over a period of time results in a large contribution.

Weekly Gift → 3-Year Total		Monthly Gift → 3-Year Total	
\$700	\$109,200	\$3,000	\$108,000
\$500	\$78,000	\$1,500	\$54,000
\$400	\$62,400	\$1,200	\$42,200
\$300	\$46,800	\$1,000	\$36,000
\$200	\$31,200	\$800	\$28,800
\$150	\$23,400	\$600	\$21,600
\$125	\$19,500	\$500	\$18,000
\$100	\$15,600	\$400	\$14,400
\$90	\$14,040	\$360	\$12,960
\$80	\$12,480	\$320	\$11,520
\$70	\$10,920	\$280	\$10,080
\$60	\$9,360	\$240	\$8,640
\$50	\$7,800	\$200	\$7,200
\$45	\$7,020	\$180	\$6,480
\$40	\$6,240	\$160	\$5,760
\$35	\$5,460	\$140	\$5,040
\$30	\$4,680	\$120	\$4,320
\$25	\$3,900	\$100	\$3,600
\$20	\$3,120	\$80	\$2,880