

Legacies



Spring Edition, 2014

Gift planning ideas for members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin

God Is Good *The Legacy of a Faithful Servant*

Almost seven years ago I was introduced to a whole new church family – the people of Marshall Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). When I first arrived as your pastor at MACC, I was visited often and welcomed by many. I wish to lift up one of those persons in my article this month; I want to share part of Cris Engle's story.

Actually, Cris not only welcomed me as her pastor, she welcomed my family and my puppy dog Eli – giving him a toy every year at Christmas and loving on him every time she saw him. When I came to MACC, Cris was the custodian of the church. She took great pride in taking care of the church building. She would often come by during the week to drop something off, decorate the entryway or just to talk. And I could tell right away that she loved "her" church. But it didn't take long to realize that it wasn't just the church building that was important to her; it was everything about Church that she loved. It was about her relationship with God – it was about her relationship with her church family – it was about learning and growing and living together. Cris was present at every fellowship event and every study time she could. Her love for God and for this church encompassed her whole life. You all may not know it, but Cris would walk over to the church every Sunday morning around 6 or 7 am, unlock the building and turn on the light that shines on the cross above the communion table. Some may say, "ok, so she unlocked the church building" but it was more than that. Cris was, in her own way, preparing the worship space for all of us. You know sometimes it is easy to overlook or not share the gifts that we have because we might think they are too small or insignificant. But I can assure you that every gift God has blessed you with is important and ought to be shared. Cris was a testament to that.

If you knew Cris then you probably knew that she was on a fixed income. When we have very little money it is easy for us to think that we don't have enough to give an offering, and then choose not to. It would have been easy for Cris to say and do this as well, but she was not that way.....her relationship with God was not like that. She didn't have a lot but she was grateful to God for all she had and she gave back what she could. I don't know how much Cris gave but no matter if she could do a lot or a little, it was important to her to always give her offering. And it wasn't just from her income. If she ever came upon money, she would give 10% of it to her church. God blessed her, and she gave back in love – both in what she did and in what she gave.

We had to say goodbye to Cris almost 1 year ago - in March of 2013. She died suddenly. But even in her death Cris gave in love of God and to her church. When Cris died she had her next Sunday's offering envelope on her kitchen table. Her daughter Paula brought it to me because she knew how important it was to her mother. And Cris also put Marshall Avenue Christian Church in her will. She remembered her church as part of her family. She wanted to leave what she could to Marshall Avenue Christian Church. She extended her love of God and this church even beyond her time here on earth.

We were blessed to call Cris Engle friend and we were blessed to have her as part of our church family. This testimony of Cris Engle is important for us to hear and to share because it gives a great example of how, even if we have very little, to be a true steward of what we do have. Sitting across from the offering box, [Jesus] was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins - a measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, "The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all." (The Message, Mark 12:41-44)

Submitted by Rev. Rachel Doolin, Pastor at Marshall Avenue Christian Church in Mattoon, IL.

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Endowing Your Pledge

What if...

- Members of your congregation could continue to make annual gifts even after they've died?
- Your congregation could enhance its support of outreach ministries while sustaining, and growing, financial support for building upkeep and administration?

It's Very Possible!

Consider promoting the concept of "endowing your pledge" to members of your congregation. Ask them to consider, as they make their legacy plans, to include a gift to the congregation that is 25 times their annual pledge. They won't leave behind just an empty pew!

Here's how it works:

Member A pledges \$5,000 a year to support the congregation. The pledge can be endowed forever with an estate gift of \$125,000 ($25 \times \$5,000 = \$125,000$). That legacy gift, invested for the long term to provide a 4% annual payout and a growth of principal, will distribute \$5,000 to the church in its first year. With prudent investing, the invested amount will grow over time — and the dollars generated from that 4% annual payout also will grow, supporting your ministries with a growing stream of income.

To learn more about how this can work in your congregation, contact the regional office or the Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins at the Christian Church Foundation at (800) 668-8016.



Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins

Steward's Bank Lets People Give Now—and Give Later

Donor-advised funds have become popular giving instruments, allowing individuals to "bank" their gift for future years while claiming an immediate charitable income tax deduction. The Christian Church Foundation's "Steward's Bank" allows individuals to open an account with \$10,000 or more and add to it as desired, and to receive that tax deduction. Later, the donor "advises" the Foundation to make distributions to qualified charities; at least 51% of the distributions over the long term need to go to ministries and institutions affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). While there is no further charitable income tax deduction when distributions are made from the account, growth in the fund through investments do not carry any tax liability.

Thank you to CCIW Donors to the Annual Fund for January-April

Memorial gifts to the All Saints Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin have been given to honor the life of:

Rev. Dr. Albert Dulyea-Parker
by
Amy E. Booker-Hirsch

You are urged to use the panel at right to establish a Name of Honor (\$100 minimum) in the Fund.

Annual Fund Donors:

First Christian Church, Gibson City
Dwight Bailey
Montee & Audrey M. Akers
Scott & Vicky Woolridge
Lomax Christian Church
Niantic Christian Church
Disciples Church Extension Fund
Community CC of Lincolnshire
Larry or Gayle Conrady
First Christian Church, Sullivan
Christian Church of Villa Park
First Christian Church, Canton
Victor M. Coriano
Illiopolis Christian Church
Glenn & Gina Nestlerode
Pearl & Charles Lange
First Christian Church, Petersburg
First Christian Church, Creve Coeur
First Christian Church of Sterling
Doris & Daniel Carter



For more information

on any of the topics discussed in this newsletter, simply complete, detach, and mail this panel to:

Christian Church in IL & WI
Rev. Scott Woolridge
1011 N Main Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

or

Email: scott@cciwdisciples.org

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (____) _____

Best time to call: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Email: _____

___ **I have named the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin** in my will.

___ **I have named my congregation** in my will.

___ **I would like the Christian Church Foundation** to contact me.

___ **I would like to establish a Name(s) of Honor within the All Saints Fund of the Region (\$100 minimum), in memory of:**

___ **I would like to contribute to the All Saints Fund memorial for an existing Name of Honor:**

in the amount of \$ _____.

___ **Please send information** on establishing a **Charitable Gift Annuity** with the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

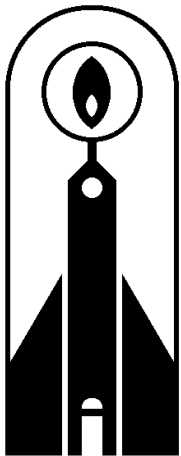
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI
1011 North Main St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-828-6293

The All Saints Fund

A life well lived in the faith cannot help but touch the lives of others.

Celebrate the life of such a person now by honoring them by a gift to the All Saints Fund of the Region. \$100.00 will establish a name of honor within the fund, and additional gifts may be made by anyone in any amount.

Visit the regional website or contact our office for details. We are grateful for the sustaining gifts created in the All Saints Fund.



Keep the flame alive...

Remember the Church

The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin does not render legal, tax or other professional advisory services. Advice from an attorney and other professional advisors should be sought when considering charitable giving.

Legacies is published for friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL and WI by the Region and by the Christian Church Foundation. It is designed to point out current developments that may be helpful in your tax and financial planning. Not all gift instruments are available in every state.

You should consult your own attorney or financial advisors.

Christian Church Foundation, 130 E. Washington Street, P. O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Phone: (800)668-8016 Web: www.disciples.org/ccf

Email our Foundation Vice President, Darwin Collins: dcollins@ccf.disciples.org

*Please help us in our stewardship, as you are able,
by advising us of any planned gifting you intend for the regional church,
either through your will or other gifting instruments. All information will be held in strict confidence.*