

Generous Spirit

in the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Fall 2009

Who Gives? They do!

A lifelong involvement at St. John the Baptist



photo courtesy of Rupert Hare

To scores of Anglicans around North Sydney, she's recognized as "Mrs. Hare" director of Camp Bretondean during the 1960s and 70s. To others, she's just Flo, fellow parishioner, former church office secretary and active volunteer with ACW and Mothers' Union at St. John the Baptist.

Both Flo Hare and her husband Lloyd were baptised and confirmed at St. John's. It's where Flo joined Girls' Auxiliary and Junior Auxiliary, and where she later became a youth leader and member of the Anglican Young People's Association. "I always felt a strong sense of belonging to that church," says Flo.

Volunteering as a youth gave Flo the chance to travel and meet other young people involved in lay ministry. This was just the beginning of a lifelong involvement with the parish and diocese. In addition to her years as a camp director and parish office secretary, her volunteer work spans decades. For her commitment to the life and

Flo and Lloyd Hare of North Sydney, NS

work of the Church, at local, provincial and national levels, Flo was presented in 2002 with a Faithful Service Award from the diocese.

One of the long-standing committees that Flo has served on was Stewardship. "We would try very hard to encourage people to be good stewards of all we have—our resources, our gifts, our time," she says.

Flo followed her own advice, welcoming the opportunity to share her time and talents in service of church governance and ministries.

"I felt very privileged to have been elected to attend General Synod four times," she says, "and was invited to serve on The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund." This ministry made a real impression on her. "I was working with people who had such a sense of vision and stewardship, who went out to the places where the funds were serving; people who were more than ready to walk the walk."

The Reverend Carl Fraser, Assistant Rector at St. John's, says Flo has touched the lives of many in this area, and made a significant contribution to this church.

"She has a wonderful way of rallying people," says Carl, "seeing what needs to be done and building a team who can do it. When something is put into her care, it gets done."

(See St. John's, pg 2)

Bishops' Action Appeal Launched



A new annual appeal that builds on the success of the *Leap For Faith* capital campaign is offering Anglicans the opportunity to support diocesan-wide ministry. The first Bishop's Action Appeal seeks funds for three important ministry areas: parish, family and episcopal ministry.

Bishop Sue Moxley, in launching the annual appeal in October, spoke of the importance of ensuring adequate resources are available to support vital ministry. "As Anglicans, we have a tradition rich in worship, sacrament, fellowship, service to one another and to the world. We must continue to pass these traditions on," she said.

(see *Bishops' Action Appeal*, pg 2)



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Bishops' Action Appeal

For 2009 the goal is to raise \$292,500 to support work including lay leadership development, congregational development, rural parish support, and young adult ministry. Also, a portion of the funds raised will be set aside to develop an endowment that eventually will fund the diocesan bishop's position, thus removing these annual costs from the diocesan allotment.

While immediate outright gifts or annual pledges are required to ensure a successful appeal, bequests also can be particularly helpful in supporting the episcopal ministry endowed fund. "Bequests can be a wonderful means for Anglicans to support ministry objectives for the future.

When bequests are permanently invested by the diocese, the annual income will be a legacy that lives on in perpetuity," says Charles O'Neil, diocesan gift planning consultant.

Anglicans from across the diocese are asked to generously support this appeal.

For further information or to arrange a gift, please contact Jana O'Neil at the Diocesan Synod Office at 422-6925 or 1-888-786-5222 or jana.oneil@nspeidiocese.ca

Leave a Legacy

by The Rev'd Michael Mitchell

My dad passed away quite unexpectedly this summer. Since his death, I've had opportunity to consider the legacy of faith, love and kindness he left behind for family and friends. It's a legacy that continues to unfold and impact all who knew and loved him.

The phrase "leave a legacy" is heard quite often these days. As Christians, we have a powerful opportunity to witness to our faith through our legacy. While our will outlines the property or monetary assets we wish to leave to our heirs, our final Testament is a conscious expression of our beliefs, values, love of God and family.

Each of us leaves a legacy, whether we mean to or not. Our legacies are the quality of the lives we leave behind. We will be remembered for our attitude toward life and whether or not we inspired in others a love for life and an openness to those who lived it with us. We will be remembered for our smiles and our frowns, for our laughter and for our complaints, for our kindness and for our selfishness. Our legacy is a reflection of our relationship with God.

As we read this issue of *Generous Spirit*, let us be conscious of our legacy and consider including with our will, a final



Michael is Rector of the Parish of St. John's Church, Lunenburg, and chair of the diocesan Planned Giving committee.

Testament of faith. Our legacy is far more than our fiscal worth. Our legacy does not end the day we die. We have added to it every moment of our lives.



cont'd from page 1 St. John's

"She is still one of the driving forces behind the Lenten program," he says, a lunch and speaker series that welcomes more than one hundred people a week during Lent. "And they have been at it for over 30 years."

But of all the projects she has worked on, there is a special place in Flo's heart for Camp Bretondean. She spent 13 summers as director of this camp on the Mira, surrounded by 65 young campers including her own four children.

"We have such wonderful memories," she says. "We were there at camp without a car, without a phone—as you were in those days—but we didn't have any emergencies. I always felt aware of the presence of the Lord. The spirit of the place was tremendous."

Carl says Flo's presence at the camp is also part of childhood memories of so many across the region.

"For people now in the 40 to 60 year age range, they would remember her as the den mother at Camp Bretondean. It was an incredibly formative experience in many people's lives."

Flo says she is grateful to have been involved in a meaningful way in the lives of people through work in the church. "I felt the opportunity for real service," says Flo, "to share in some small way, my relationship to the Lord, and what it meant in my lifetime."

When it came to estate planning, the Hares wanted the stewardship they practiced during their lives to extend beyond their lifetime. "We decided to continue giving to the church through a bequest in our will for a portion of the remains of the estate—half to go to the parish for the training of lay people in ministry or leadership; the other half to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

"We are certainly not people of means, but we've always had a strong sense of giving back," says Flo, "to share in gratitude for all that we have received."

Staff and counsellors at Camp Bretondean, 1961



photo courtesy of Flo Hare

Talking about Wills

by James C. Travers, Q.C.

Estate planning requires consideration of a number of factors which must be taken into account in preparing a structure which truly reflects your wishes. No one wishes to pay more taxes than they have to, and a married person's first priority is usually to ensure that his or her spouse is adequately provided for as well. Balancing these concerns, and providing for a gift to a parish requires some thought, but can be accomplished with a properly structured estate plan. The following are some points for consideration in drafting a will.

Q: What taxes must be paid in the event of my death?

A: There are no estate or succession taxes as such in Canada. A tax return must be filed for the deceased person covering the time up to the deceased's death. In addition, the deceased is deemed to have disposed of capital property (stocks, shares in a business, cottage property, etc.) at the fair market value of those assets at the time of death. If there is any capital gain on those assets (fair market value of the assets less acquisition cost and capital improvements), one half of the capital gain must be included as income and taxes paid on that income.

Q: How can I minimize the tax consequences?

A: Capital gains taxes can be deferred on death by leaving those assets to the deceased person's spouse, either out right or in trust for the spouse's lifetime. Bequests to charitable organizations, such as your parish, will generate tax credits which your estate can use to offset any taxes payable.

Q: How can I provide for my spouse for his or her lifetime, and also make a gift to my parish?

A: It is possible to establish a spousal trust in your Will, leaving as much of your estate as you wish to the trust. The terms of the trust would be that your spouse is entitled to all of the income generated by the trust during his or her lifetime, with the trustees of the trust having full discretion to make payments of capital out of the trust to your spouse if there is a need to do so. The will would further specify that, upon the death of your spouse, the balance of the trust then remaining would be paid to your parish. Any capital gains taxes payable by your estate would be deferred until your

spouse's death, and the bequest to the parish would generate a tax receipt to at least partially offset the taxes payable by the estate.

Q: Can I place conditions on any gifts which I may leave to my parish?

A: You may place conditions on your bequest to your parish which will be binding on the parish, so long as they are not contrary to law or to the fundamental beliefs of the Anglican church. For example, you could place a condition on your gift that the capital is not to be spent by the parish, with any income earned on the gift available for use by the parish. You may also designate that the principal or income of the gift is to be used for a specified purpose by the parish. In general, it is preferable not to place too many conditions on any gift made to a parish, as it is impossible to predict what the future needs of the parish will be. Many times parishes will receive gifts subject to certain restrictions which result in the gift having less benefit to the parish than might have been possible. Some parishes have established endowment funds, which are funds where the principal cannot be spent, and a portion of the income is reinvested to protect the value of the fund against inflation. Other parishes may have funds which have been established for particular purposes, to which parishioners may make further gifts or bequests.

Q: Who should I speak with in my parish concerning a gift to the parish in my will?

A: If your parish has a gift planning coordinator, that person would be the ideal contact. In parishes without a gift planning coordinator, the rector and wardens would be appropriate people to speak with regarding the needs of the parish. Charles O'Neil, the diocesan gift planning consultant, is also a useful resource.



Jim is a partner in the Charlottetown law firm of Stewart McKelvey, and a member of St. Paul's Church. He may be reached at (902) 629-4504

Puzzled by Endowments?

The diocesan planned giving committee is preparing a booklet about parish endowment funds to be available in the new year. A parish endowment can be an effective source of permanent funding and a means to attract substantial new gifts providing vital support for ministry, if properly established and maintained.

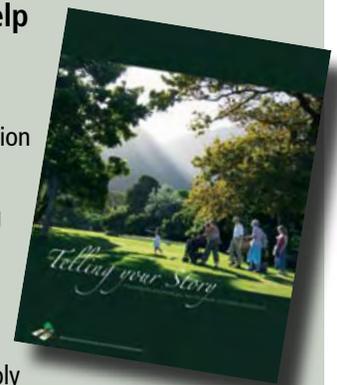
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Focus on Planning Your Legacy

by Charles O'Neil



Future gifts such as bequests are a means of establishing a legacy for the future; a means to help ensure our church's ministry continues for future generations. Legacy gifts are nothing new in the church. We need only look around at our beautiful houses of worship that we enjoy today because of the generous legacy left to us by previous generations of faithful Anglicans.

Now more than ever our ministry is needed in today's society. Gifts through bequests can allow parishes to plan effectively for ministry programs that move parishes beyond maintenance to vital mission.

For most of us the word 'legacy' conjures up images of mansions, expensive automobiles and exquisite jewelry. Dictionaries give us a less glamorous definition and define a legacy as, "something handed down to a successor". In fact, all of us will leave some sort of legacy. It could be the legacy of loving relationships, opportunities provided through a spirit of generosity, or a legacy of community service. We all will leave at least a modest financial legacy too, and we should be concerned with the proper management of our finances now, and how our assets will be disbursed upon our eventual death.

You may find the following three-part process helpful in planning the financial part of your legacy. Of course it is important to consult with a trusted advisor who can ensure your plan is viable and meets all of your needs.

Financial Plan

Make a list of your assets and liabilities. Your assets include the value of what you own such as RRSP/RRIF's, your residence, personal property, and the value of your investments. On the liability side, list your debts including mortgages and other loans. Now subtract this total from your assets to arrive at your net worth.

Preparing a cash flow statement is helpful to determine your discretionary income. List all of your annual expenditures, both for necessities and discretionary spending, and subtract the total from your annual income.

Your financial plan also will consider requirements for life insurance to protect you and your family. Tax planning and creating your immediate and long-term goals are also important.

Estate Plan

Using the results of your financial plan, your advisor can project the value of your estate upon your death. At this time you should consider the needs of your family, their circumstances and their ability to manage their own financial affairs. Maximizing the value of your estate is important and again, tax planning is a key consideration. Your advisor can assist you with this as well as beneficiary designations and joint ownership options.

Of course a key component of your financial plan is a properly prepared will. Don't overlook the need for a power of attorney and medical directive as well.

Legacy Plan

Now that you have in place a financial plan and a plan to support your family and other heirs, it is time to consider your charitable interests. This can be as simple as naming the church in your will or as complex as setting up a charitable foundation to provide funding for generations to come. Your advisor can help you to anticipate the tax benefits of your gifts and their impact upon your estate.

With a proper plan in place you can be assured that the legacy you hand down to your successors will reflect your faithful stewardship of God's gifts and make a real difference in the lives that follow.



Charles O'Neil is the Diocesan Gift Planning Consultant. He may be reached at (902) 477-0105

"No matter how rich you become, how famous or powerful... when you die the size of your funeral will still pretty much depend on the weather."

— Michael Pritchard



Near New London, Prince Edward Island

The information in this newsletter is provided for general information only. It does not constitute legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice. The Diocese encourages you to consult with a legal or financial planning professional before deciding on a course of action.

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