

Planning....It's a Good Thing

As our churches are making plans to lead congregations into the joy of being generous with all the blessings God has lovingly given, planned giving is possibly an untapped (maybe uncomfortable) piece of this journey. Quoting from *Creating Generous Congregations* by David Heetland, six reasons for churches to include a Planning Giving Program are:

“1) Planned giving provides a tremendous opportunity for Christians to make a powerful witness to their faith and their values.

2) Planned giving also helps maintain the work of the church and its related institutions.

3) Planned giving enables persons to make larger charitable gifts than otherwise possible.

4) Planned giving allows persons to establish permanent living memorials for themselves or others.

5) Planned giving also provides tax advantages for the donor.

6) Planned giving enhances both annual and capital giving programs.”

Year-round generosity has become a wonderful model for churches as members share stories about their personal paths to generosity. Higher education institutions have learned that alumni can be very generous with their alma maters. Once we have become members of our churches and proclaimed ourselves as Christians, we are in essence “alumni” all our lives of our faith communities. Our giving can extend beyond our earthly lives and the opportunity to continue giving back from God’s generosity can be very affirming.

The Presbyterian Foundation stands ready to assist with a free guide to help churches start a planning giving program. Here is a link to check out:

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Legacy-of-a-Lifetime-booklet.pdf>

A personal note: As I am moving back to Maryland soon, I am taking this opportunity to express my gratitude to John Knox Presbytery for the many opportunities given me over the years to serve, meet amazing people of faith and learn why JKP is very respected and “a good place to be”. Thank you all,
Linda Jawson