



Testimonials

My wife Amy and I came to South Carolina in 2007, after a military career and migratory life. Thinking that this may just be the one last move of our lives, we settled in Indian Land and began looking for a church home. Turns out the church was looking for us. A lady with a smile and cheerful greeting met us in the parking lot, introduced herself, took us in hand and presented us to her Unity Presbyterian Church family. We had finally come home.

We settled easily into the life of Unity. Having no past history with our “new” family we concentrated on the present with our time, talent and resources and began thinking about what we could do to be a part of the future. The Unity Endowment program seemed to be the answer. It becomes a way to continue being involved in the life of the church now and long after we fade into memory.



Dwight “Buzz” Benson

March 2021, In memory of Alma A. Benson

Shortly after moving to Fort Mill in 1978, we joined Unity and raised both our grown boys in the church. We are grateful for the opportunities they and we have been given to grow our faith, setting the foundation for a faith journey that continues in our family today. We have always been active members at Unity and have enjoyed serving in many different areas in the life of the church.

Kaleidoscope Sensory Room for special needs children, Living Waters of the World, Bibles for all children age 4K-5th grade, Honduran Eye Clinic...Did you know that Unity has supported these ministries along with others through the giving of its members to Unity's Endowment Program?

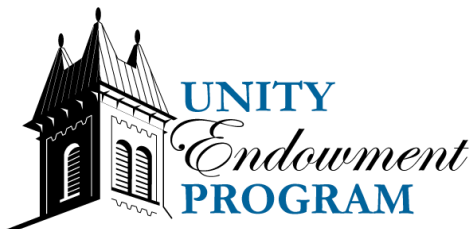
Over and above the operating budget, Unity's Endowment Program has given us an opportunity to not only invest in the future of Unity, but also to help expand the growing ministry areas we now serve in the church, community and around the world.

It is a joy to give back to our church that has supported and loved us these 43 years. Together, we can make a difference. To God be the Glory!



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

Gary & Ruth Boetsch



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Often in our lives, God gives us opportunities to step out in faith. Every time we save or make plans we are stepping out of the present into the future. We envision dreams of success and the reality of hopes achieved. None of these future endeavors are assured when we make them. But we have faith that they can, and will be, a reality through good planning and adequate funds.

Because Unity Presbyterian Church is a living, active part of the body of Christ, we too have hopes, dreams and plans for the future. However, annual budgets do not cover the opportunities which arise from God's creative, imaginative unforeseen leadings. These are opportunities that God "pops" into a person's or a committee's head that I label "leaps of faith"! Not just a normal step, but an exciting leap of confident courage that says "YES" to an amazing concept in the life and ministry of this church. The Endowment was created to enable these previously unimagined "Leaps of Faith".

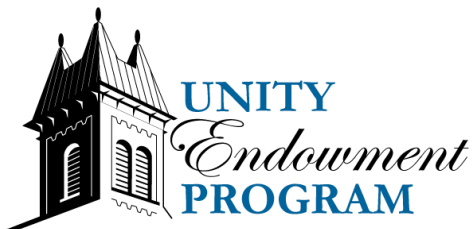


The sensory room in the Preschool area is one such "YES". This room is used for children with special needs. This learning environment is specifically structured for children to be able to experience the love of God in a way that they can understand and respond to. Materials, teacher and mentor resources and training keep this classroom an up-to-date facility not only for now, but for the future.

Another "YES" is the funds used by Living Waters of the World. A mission group from our church joins the Presbytery initiative that goes out into the world to dig and build wells so others may have safe drinking water. Something I take for granted. But many people across the globe have difficulty securing this necessity. Loving our neighbors reaches beyond our borders.

The longevity of the Endowment is what appeals to me. This year of pandemic has shifted my picture of the future. The future will force the church to morph into new ways of sharing the truth of the Gospel, mission and work of the Church. Whatever looked possible in 2020 does not define what we do today. Flexibility, creativity, and imagination help us to not only connect to each other but to a larger Church family. The Endowment will enable us to, not only react to the future, but imagine it now. When I am no longer present here, Unity will continue to have the resources to make "Leaps of Faith" happen. Now that's an exciting, joyful hope for the future!

Maggie Bost



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Over 40 years ago, we moved to the Fort Mill area and soon thereafter became members of Unity Presbyterian Church. We joined Unity because Cecelia had several friends from Unity that she taught with at Fort Mill Elementary School -- what a wonderful decision that has turned out to be.

One of the greatest gifts that Unity has given us has been providing a nurturing church family in which to help raise our daughter and grandchildren. Their ability to grow in their faith through all that Unity has to offer children and youth has been a wonderful experience for all of them.

By our contributions to the Unity Endowment Fund we are helping to support those programs that otherwise would not be funded from our normal annual church contributions. It is encouraging to see the ways that the Endowment Fund has already provided for so many special needs in support of our children and youth ministries. In addition, the Endowment program has helped in other areas including world mission efforts and programs that have helped to enhance our spiritual growth.

As we look back on our 40 years with Unity, we realize how much God has blessed us in so many ways. One way that we have tried to show our appreciation for our many blessings is to not only give our annual pledge to Unity but to support the Endowment program. In addition to making one time contributions, we have made the Endowment Fund one of our beneficiaries from our IRA accounts. Leaving funds to the Endowment is an excellent way to help God do his work through Unity Church. We hope you will make God smile now by taking the time to arrange to support Unity's Endowment Program in any way you can.

Cecelia and Dan Rogers

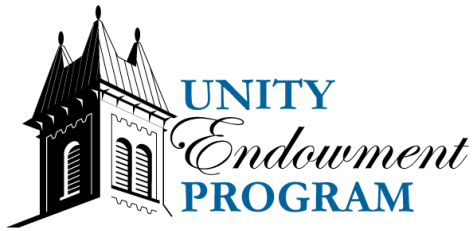
I have been a member of Unity Presbyterian Church for many years. When my husband and our young children first came to Fort Mill in 1982, we found an instant fit at Unity. After 5 years, we moved to Georgetown Presbyterian and continued our service to community and God. Next, in 1994, we returned to the area and were members at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian in Rock Hill. These moves were all related to my husband Mitch's job advancements. I was happy to continue my teaching in Fort Mill schools on return. When Mitch passed away in 1999, Patrick, my son, was in college in Virginia, and my daughter Maggie had married and moved to Lexington, SC. I was truly an empty nester. After a couple of years, my heart was leading me back to Unity. I had a church family here who welcomed me home.

Unity has always been special to me and I have been happy to participate and serve here in many different ways. The Endowment Program came to my attention a few years ago. I have found it to be a program where I can give to help support projects that need funding after the yearly budget is closed. Projects from different areas that would have no other funding are able to find monetary support. Any amount is gratefully accepted as well as estate planning. So please consider donating to this program.

Blessings abound and giving to the Endowment Program invests in our future here at Unity.

Kathy Sizemore, March 24, 2021





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Judy and I support the Unity Endowment Program because it provides a legacy for the future of the church. It provides additional stability to sustain the church through the ups and downs that are part of our lives and part of the life of the church. In addition to its future benefits, the Endowment Program provides funding each year for special worthwhile projects and activities that enhance the life of the church and our ministries, but are outside the annual budget.

The Session recently adopted a Vision of Ministry for the coming church year.

Connections – as Christ is the vine and we are the branches, we will seek to bear fruit by deepening, restoring, repairing, and forging new connections:

With Christ

With One Another

With Our Neighbors Near and Far

The Endowment Program can be an energizing force in achieving this vision. It can provide short term grants to fund new ideas for connecting with Christ, connecting with our fellow members as we work our way back to full fellowship coming out of the pandemic, and connecting with our neighbors right here in the Fort Mill area and around the world. Some of these ideas may be one-time projects, but hopefully some will blossom into new and lasting ministries that will be a blessing to Unity Presbyterian and to those we seek to serve in Christ's name.

Larry & Judy Terrell

We both grew up as members of First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill where we were active in youth groups and were eventually married. Our family histories include Presbyterians over many generations. Our children were fortunate to grow up as a part of Unity. Now, we are blessed to have the means to honor our ancestors and to leave a legacy for those who are coming after us. The Endowment Program at Unity provides the perfect vehicle for those ends.

We will continue to support Unity's operating budget and capital campaigns, but gifts to the Endowment will also continue for a special reason. We cannot know what challenges our country and our church may face when we are gone. To the extent we can, we want to provide some strength to the future congregations who will be meeting those challenges.

The history of the church teaches that God's purposes are worked out over many generations. The Endowment allows us to further those purposes beyond the short horizon of our lives.

Spratt and Sandra White





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Jenny was raised at Unity Presbyterian Church and we were united in Marriage in the Historic Sanctuary in 2008, two of our children were baptized at Unity, and two of our other children are in their final earthly resting place in the Columbarium. Unity holds a special place in our lives and in our hearts.

When we learned about the Unity Endowment Program and how it provides for current and future generations beyond the operating budget and capital fund, we felt called to give. Our life together has been shaped by Unity because of the gifts of time, talent and money that were given by the generations who came before us. We want to be able to invest in the current and future generations of Unity, as they dream about how to expand Unity's impact on our community.



We firmly believe this is not our money- it is on loan to us from God. We are called to be generous and willing to share what has been loaned to us here on Earth. Our family felt called to give back through cash gifts to the Endowment Fund.

After we made our first gift, part of the Endowment Fund was earmarked for a Children's Sensory room. This is something our son would have benefitted from when he was younger. We are grateful to see how the Endowment Fund is already benefitting current and future generations, while we are still here on Earth, and how it will continue to benefit the generations to come after we join our creator in Heaven.

Jenny and Gary Fike

When my wife and I moved to Fort Mill in 1995, we thought we should update our wills, but just never got around to it. So when Unity introduced an endowment fund, it was enough to get us moving and we did the update, including a final bequest to Unity. I also named Unity as beneficiary to a small life insurance policy I've been carrying for many years.

While preparing for the will update, I realized that a large portion of our assets are in my retirement IRA which would pass directly to my beneficiary upon my death. An easy way to give a final gift to Unity would be to include it as a beneficiary, or secondary beneficiary, for the IRA. This can be done as a dollar amount or percentage without any need for a will.



Marcia and Steve Hardy



Testimonials

Liz and I moved to Fort Mill in August 1967... almost 50 years ago. Unity became a very important part of our lives soon after our arrival and has continued to be the cornerstone of our faith journey since. We raised our two daughters here through Sunday School, Youth Groups and two wonderful weddings!

We have been blessed to be able to support the Unity ministry through our service, regular giving and several Capital Campaigns. The completion of the new sanctuary was particularly meaningful for us as we remembered those who came before us and all they gave to make Unity available for us. With great faith and commitment to a future they did not know, they laid a strong foundation for those who followed them.



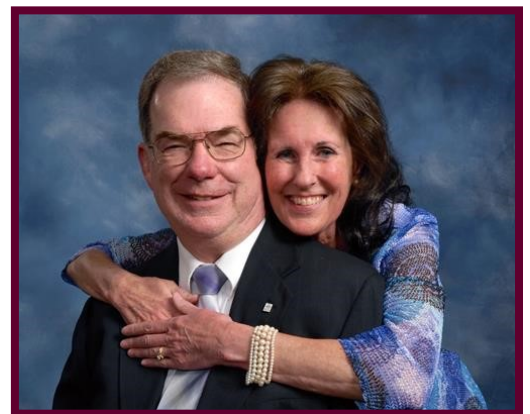
We too have an obligation to help assure that Unity has a strong future for those who follow us. Our regular contributions are important for today and now we have a new Unity Endowment Program that provides several formal ways to help provide for future Unity congregations. Many of those can be accomplished without the use of an attorney.

We encourage you to extend your support for our wonderful church by participating in the Unity Endowment Program. Create Your Legacy Today for a Faithful Tomorrow!

Bill and Liz Hood

We want to be a part of Unity both now and in the future, trusting that God will direct us, our mission, and our finances as we glorify God through worship, nurture, and service to all people.

When a gift is given to the Church Endowment Fund, the monetary gift is not spent by the Endowment Committee and it does not enter into the general church budget. All or part of it may be invested. The interest and dividends earned become available to be spent on projects and programs at the church or missions elsewhere. As the principal grows over the months and years, the interest and dividends become greater and more money is available to the Committee to be used at their discretion. So, monetary gifts to the Church Endowment Fund truly are gifts that "keep on giving" year after year! Our financial pledge each year is important and helps fund the church today.. Our endowment gifts help fund the church and its activities and programs today *and* in the future.



Jim & Norma Lester



Testimonials

My husband, John, and I had been lifelong Methodists when we joined Unity in 1997 because of the strength of the youth program and the many friends that we had in the congregation. We immediately became involved in the life of the church and supported its ministries through our time, our talents, and our treasures.

I have been doing a lot of walking lately and listening to my iPod. One of my current favorites is the Broadway musical, Hamilton, where one of the lines goes something like this - "Legacy is planting seeds in a garden that you never get to see". John and I are now at the stage of life where we are beginning to consider our legacies. Giving to the Endowment Fund is an opportunity for us to create a legacy (plant the seeds) for the benefit of future generations in our church (the garden we will never see). The donations, gifts, and pledges to the Endowment Fund create a perpetual resource to be used to support Unity Presbyterian Church and enhance the church's ministries.

Our first contribution to the Endowment Fund was given in honor of some special friends. We plan to continue this practice of honoring special people in this way and to also designate the Endowment Fund as one of the recipients of memorial gifts for us when that time comes. We are grateful for this church and we want to bless Unity in return with our Endowment Fund gifts. It is an honor and blessing to be able to support our church in this special way.

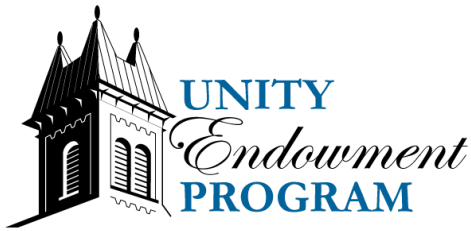
Jessie Little



Cathy and I joined Unity in 1977. We raised our children in Unity and have grown spiritually as Unity has grown physically in the community. We are dedicated to the future of Unity and make contributions to the endowment with that goal. Current tax laws and mandatory distributions from my retirement account allow charitable contributions via those distributions. We use those opportunities to make our yearly stewardship pledge and to support the endowment and encourage others to do likewise.

Ken & Cathy Nunnery





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We are so pleased to be able to support the legacy of service through Christ by donating to the Unity Presbyterian Church Endowment Program. Over the years Unity has become our Church home and family, and we hope to share just a fraction of all of the blessings Unity has provided to our family. We know the Endowment fund will continue to support Unity for future generations to come.

Dan Raischel



We contributed to Unity's Endowment Program with a cash grant from our donor advised charitable giving fund. This contribution was in addition to our regular Stewardship giving that funds the General Operating Budget. We believe that it is important that Stewardship giving is not reduced in order to fund the Endowment program.

One of the things that we love about Unity is the creativity and innovation of the staff and volunteers, always looking for new ways to share God's love within our congregation and the greater community. When great ideas germinate in the middle of a budget cycle, extra funds are needed to supplement the basic operating budget to bring them to fruition. We believe that the Endowment Fund is critical to the mission of the church.

Cash and other current gifts to the Endowment Fund begin to work immediately through investment and by allowing a designated percentage to be granted to various ministries. A gift to the Endowment Fund augments the work of the church currently and provides a legacy for future generations.

Brian and Lynne Rayl





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Since moving to Indian Land, SC and the Fort Mill area in 2014, we have been blessed as new members of Unity Presbyterian Church. We feel strongly that by contributing a portion of our personal finances to the Annual Unity Stewardship and the Unity Endowment Program, Unity ministries will grow now and in the future. We hope our gifts will serve Unity members and missions in a manner that is pleasing to God-the true head of the church.

Therefore, we have fulfilled pledges for annual stewardship needs and made significant commitments to the Endowment Program to help perpetuate funding for generations to come. Based on our beliefs and John's 40 year experience as a Financial Planner, we have made gifts using four(4) tax advantaged methods: 1) Direct cash contributions for imminent cash distributions ; 2) Tax Free transfer of Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) after age 70 & 1/2 ; 3) Amended an IRA Beneficiary form to include a specified dollar amount(\$) to the Unity Endowment ;and 4) Directed a tax free donation to Unity from a Rogers Family Donor Advised Fund. All these arrangements were accomplished without the need or services of an attorney or tax advisor.



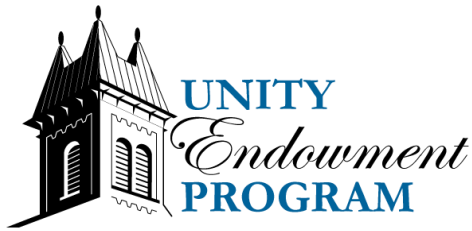
We earnestly encourage Unity members to evaluate current and future estate planning opportunities to benefit personal and congregational ministries .

John and Carolyn Rogers

We recently made a donation to the Endowment Program for Unity Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday morning, there is a stunning display of flowers at the church altar. You can see them, enjoy the fragrance, and appreciate their beauty. They enhance the significance of our services. We enter the church and are greeted by real people, we have a talented choir, kids' time, and a meaningful service that we can all appreciate. Please consider giving now to the church Endowment Program, which will eventually help support many of the church programs. If you can afford to donate anything at all, now is the time so that you can appreciate the fruits of your donation while dancing on this earth. We encourage you to not wait for your Trust to take over, and encourage you to try and give something while you are still active. This way you can see and treasure the services that this money will provide to the congregation.



Stan & Carol Wilson



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I moved to Fort Mill in 2010, because of a job change that brought me to the Charlotte area. After being here a year, I was laid off and had to do some serious research to establish my true financial status. My financial advisor worked closely with me, and introduced me to a simple way to ensure my family could cover the costs to close my estate when I die, and still receive an inheritance. The solution was a Universal Life insurance policy with a very substantial death benefit – the best part is that the premium is paid once annually from my IRA, so I pay nothing out of pocket, and the funds from the death benefit are tax-free.



Since becoming a member of Unity, I've had many opportunities to serve our church and congregation. To show my gratitude for the blessings I've received, I recently updated my policy to include Unity Presbyterian Church as a primary beneficiary. Making the change was as simple as submitting a change of beneficiaries' form to the insurance company. Now, Unity will also receive a share of my estate.

John Young

“Creating a legacy today for a faithful tomorrow.”