

# A GIFT OF GRATITUDE

*a Legacy of Faith*



The Importance of Legacy Giving for the Future of Your Parish



# What Is Legacy Giving?

A statement that my parish should  
*continue into the future*

An expression of what has  
*meaning in my life*

My bridge to the  
*next generation*

---

Legacy giving is a planned gift made during a lifetime or under a will or trust from assets accumulated during one's lifetime. In many ways, leaving a legacy gift is the fulfillment of a life of stewardship. While the faithful give to support the annual operating needs of the church, as well as to periodic capital campaigns and special mission and outreach projects, a number of parishes seldom invite their parishioners to make plans to leave a final gift.

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation has created a Legacy Giving program to help individual parishes and Diocesan institutions promote and support the development of planned gifts for future ministry.

*“The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.”*

Book of Common Prayer, P445



# The Case for Planned Giving

## Benefits for Parishes

- ~Legacy giving is a ministry that can unlock the generosity of your congregation.
- ~Legacy gifts generate funds others will build with and will build upon in years to come.
- ~Legacy giving enables the faithful to make a final witness of their life of stewardship and by so doing provide for the long-term financial health of their faith community.
- ~Long-time members have baptized, confirmed, and married their children in your church—an emotional bond that reinforces their desire to see the ministries of the parish continue.
- ~The most generous members of the church are often the oldest, and it will take time to replace their level of giving once they pass away. Leaving a legacy gift provides a bridge of support.

## Benefits for Parishioners

- ~When a parishioner is invited to consider making a bequest, they tend to reflect on their values and the importance of the church in their life. This process often leads to a natural ordering of the things that matter most.
- ~Giving is a spiritual practice that invites the faithful to reflect on what gives meaning in life and to provide ways to carry that meaning forward.
- ~A legacy giving program is an important educational ministry to families who often postpone making the necessary legal plans to carry out their final wishes.
- ~Legacy giving is the most inclusive strategy for giving. It is more about the act of leaving a gift than it is about net worth. Everyone has a choice about how their possessions and assets are distributed upon their death, yet many never make those designations or formalize their wishes. Legacy planning gives parishioners peace of mind.
- ~Members find it meaningful to make legacy gifts—it is a way to make a permanent difference.



# It's Not Complicated

All it takes is...

*a commitment to start*

All you need is...

*a champion to see it through*

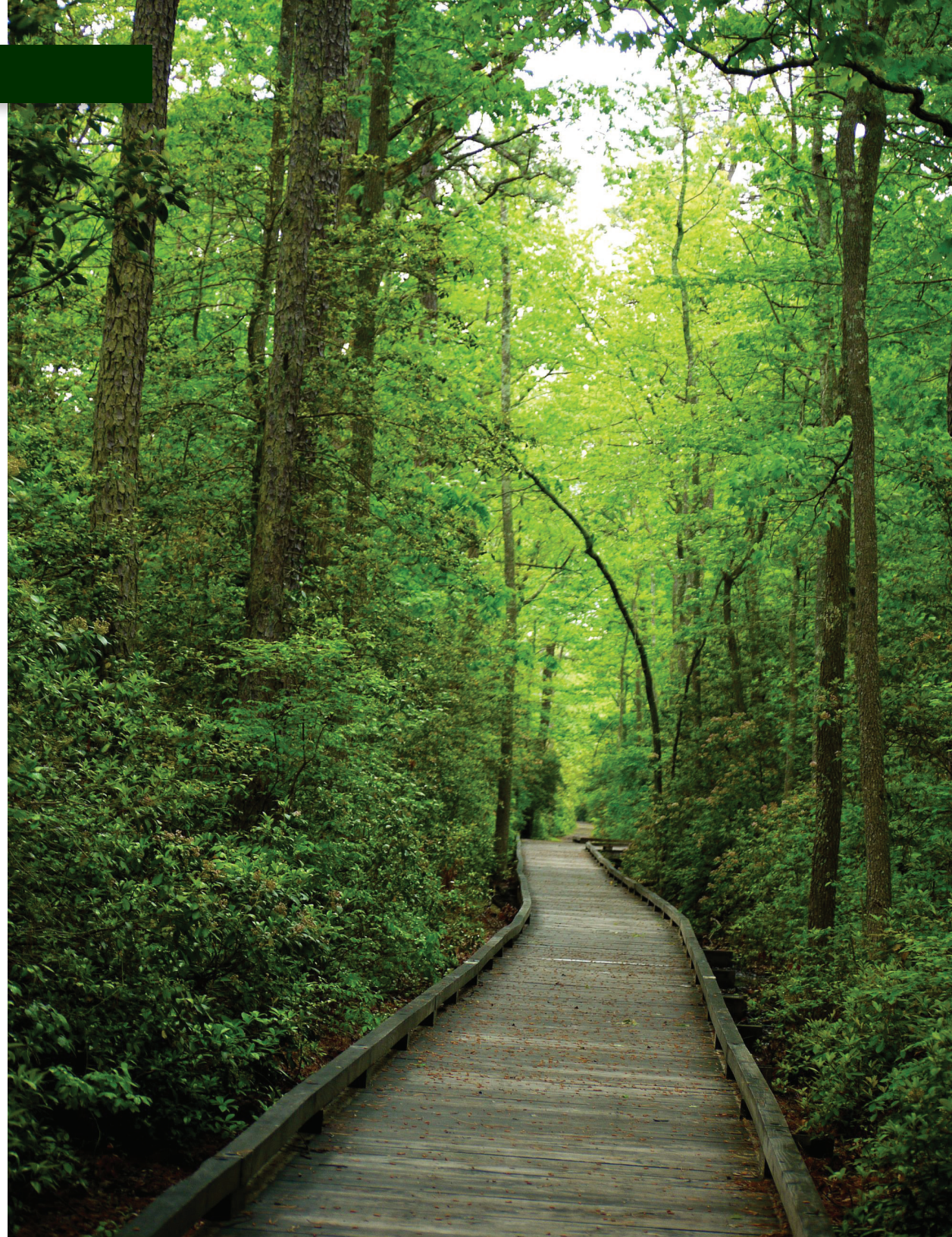
We're here to guide the way

---

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation has created a Legacy Giving manual that outlines the program step-by-step. We include information, guides, marketing templates to customize, and a schedule of easy-to-follow tasks to ensure that your congregation stays on track.

All you need is a commitment to start, and a champion or two to see it through. We are here to help guide and consult with you along the way.

For more information, please visit [www.coef.org](http://www.coef.org) or call the Foundation at (303) 534-6778.



# Benefits of a Legacy Program

## *Raise Awareness*

A legacy program raises awareness of planned giving within your congregation

## *Acknowledge*

A legacy program provides an opportunity to express gratitude toward those who make bequests to the church

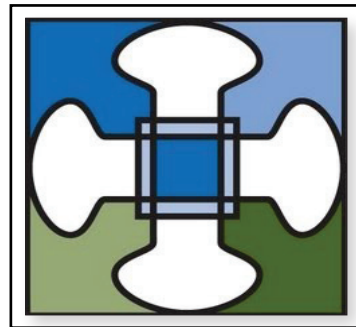
## *Stay Connected*

A legacy program will ensure that you stay connected to your donors throughout their lives

## *Future Vitality*

A legacy program expresses our belief that the church will remain vital in the future and recognizes the value of passing on to the next generation the blessings we inherited from those who came before us

There is no time like the present  
to start your legacy program!



Contact us today:

COLORADO EPISCOPAL FOUNDATION  
1300 WASHINGTON ST  
DENVER, CO 80203  
303.534.6778  
OFFICE@COEF.ORG  
WWW.COEF.ORG

