

October 2021

Endowment Newsletter



...gathered here for good.™

The Oxford English Language Dictionary defines the phrase “for good” with two words: “forever; definitively.” As we celebrate 200 years sharing Christ’s love as a congregation, we affirm our mission to be in our community for good. Forever. Definitively. Changing lives. Changing the world.

Our Endowment Funds are for good. They support mission and ministry, today, tomorrow, and beyond. They are permanent funds, carefully invested, with the resulting income being available for grants specifically targeted toward meeting ministry needs that might otherwise go unmet. For a listing of the good supported through Endowment Fund grants, please see page 7. In addition to our General Endowment, Named Funds support specific donor-designated purposes, providing funding for ministry beyond that which would be possible through our annual operating revenue alone (for a listing of Named Funds and a summary of good that they do, see page 4).

There are any number of ways in which to leave a legacy gift that will do good for generations to come. Wealth is not necessary. The will to do something for good is the first step. We would welcome the chance to work with you to translate that will into a planned gift that offers a forever witness to your faithfulness.

At the very beginning, in Genesis, we are told that when God created human beings, God created us in God’s image. And when God saw all that God had made, including you, including me, it was good, very good. In God’s image, we have been created good, for good, for ever. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to be about God’s work, and to do so in ways that create legacies of faithfulness for future generations. Forever. Definitively.



Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor
Edulworth@fumcbirmingham.org
248-646-1200 ext. 3122



Shawn Lewis-Lakin
Associate Pastor, Planned Giving
slewis-lakin@fumcbirmingham.org
734-717-8947 (cell)
firstlegacy.org

Celebrating

Bob and Mary's Generosity



Bob and Mary Feldmaier met as college students through a student organization at Purdue University. After graduation, Bob's work as an engineer in the automotive industry drew them to our area. Bob arrived first and soon after informed Mary that he had found them a church. And indeed, he had! They have been members of Birmingham First for 47 years and this spring made a legacy commitment to a new named fund, the Bob and Mary (Jeffers) Feldmaier Endowment Fund.

Before they officially joined as members of our congregation, Bob started teaching sixth grade Sunday School. A year later, Bob and Mary became Youth Fellowship counselors. Mary, who began piano lessons at the age of 7 (she had a wonderful teacher), played both piano and organ at the church of her youth; she also played for high school musicals and entertainment at Purdue University functions. Her gifts for teaching and music were shared with our congregation as our Cherub and Sonshine Children's Choir Director

for 25 years. She describes her service in that role as a "wonderful experience witnessing how music lights the world of children."

The purpose of the Bob and Mary (Jeffers) Feldmaier Fund is to support music education for children and youth, including providing financial support for music lessons and for participation in choir camps and trips. In planning this legacy gift, Bob and Mary shared that "God has been incredibly good to us, and we want to give back for these blessings. We would hope that with this legacy gift, students will feel God's presence and receive support to further their enrichment in music."

As active church members, Bob and Mary celebrate the legacy of which they have been recipients. There was a tremendous congregation, programs, and facilities here when they joined us in 1974. And they want to do what they can to provide a legacy – one that includes strong music and children's programs – for future generations. In addition to their legacy gift to Birmingham First, Bob and Mary's plans also include a legacy gift to the student organization at Purdue University where they first met. Fortunate that they can do both, Bob and Mary are a great example of generosity with a "both and" spirit.

The Endowment Board celebrates Bob and Mary's generosity, giving thanks to God not just for their legacy gift but for their ongoing commitment and service to our church. Bob currently chairs our Hunger Ministry and Mary serves on staff as our Director of Membership and Connecting Ministries. And, on most Sundays you will find one or both singing in the choir!

Letter from the Endowment Chair

“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.”

“Earn as much as you can.
Save as much as you can.
Give as much as you can.”



These quotes, both frequently attributed to John Wesley, make a wonderful template for leaving a legacy. As Dr. Carl Price taught us in his Endowment Dinner keynote address this past spring, they could point to a way for writing each of our own endings (“...By the deeds that you do, By the words that you say...” – Paul Gilbert).

The Birmingham and Berkley First Endowment Funds are an excellent way for “good” to be done for a very long period of time. The Endowment

Funds provide many options for donors to leave a legacy that will do good work in perpetuity. Some of those good works which proceeds from the Endowment Funds have enabled in the last year are mentioned in this Newsletter.

The initial Endowment Fund began back in 1996 when the Board of Trustees seeded it with \$75,000. Since then, we have been blessed by the foresight of countless members of our church who, through their own legacies of faith, have seen fit to continue to grow and expand the offerings of the Endowment Funds through current day. Those Endowment Funds, with Gift Annuities, currently have an aggregate total that is approaching six million dollars. For this we praise God and say thank you!

Thank you for being a congregation that is willing to plant trees under whose shade you will never sit. Thank you for enabling mission and worship opportunities that would otherwise not be possible. Thank you for becoming Legacy Society members who have made a planned gift to the church in your estate. Thank you for embracing the words of John Wesley and doing all the good you can...good that will continue for at least the next 200 years!

Paul Keller
Endowment Board Chair

Endowment Board

Chairperson

Paul Keller

Advisor & Staff Liaison

Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin

Chairperson Emeritus

Gary Valade

Members

Joan Benner
Jim Campagne
Eric Freeburg
Mike Fritz
Tove Jackson
Gayle McGarvah
Claude Oleson
John Schoelch
John Stevens
James Valiquett

Investment Committee

Chairperson

Richard Laimbeer

Staff Liaisons

Rev. Susie Hierholzer
Stephan Jones

Trustee Representative

Jeffrey Grabiell

Members

Brett Bernard
Rob Grabiell
Kevin Heckman
Mark Lachowicz
Karen Mobley
Rick Nauer
Andy Schueler
Frank Schweibold

Named Funds

Summary

Fund Name	Purpose	Recent Recipients*
The Seminary Intern Fund	Support interns at Birmingham and Berkley First preparing for parish church ministry	Duke Intern Support (Blaine Thomas)
The Jessie and George Nyhus Memorial Fund	Encourage and provide the means whereby the staff become better servants of Jesus Christ and leaders	Continuing Education for Ministry Staff
The Wesley Ministry Fund	Lay and clergy continuing education	Continuing Education for Staff Members
The Littleton Seminary Scholarship Fund	Assist in the training of candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC by providing scholarship assistance for seminary students having a relationship with Birmingham and Berkley First	Scholarship assistance for interns Blaine Thomas and Anika Kafi-Summers
The William J. Kernan, Jr. Fund	Assist Partners in Missions (PIM) activities	Support for Haiti, Cass Community, Sneedville (Water Project), Brightmoor, Baldwin Center, Henderson Mission and Angel Tree
The Robert and Clara Hermann Fund	Assist Partners in Missions (PIM) activities	Support for Cuba, Henderson Mission and Angel Tree
The Catherine Drinkard Fund	Missionally related programs directed toward children and youth who are economically and culturally impoverished	Haiti, Baldwin Center, and Angel Tree

* Fund recipients from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

In addition to our General Endowment, the Endowment Board oversees a dozen named funds. These funds were established with specific defined purposes and support ministries that advance such purposes. Additional contributions to named funds are welcomed. For more information on the protocol for establishing a Named Fund, contact Pastor Shawn.

Fund Name	Purpose	Recent Recipients*
The Christopher Hall Fund for Worship, Music and the Arts	Programming and new initiatives which will enhance worship, music, and fine arts ministry, with a focus on encouraging persons to consider a call to the ministry in church music	Worship support, including sanctuary improvements and guest musician
The A.M. Music Fund	Projects related to the music ministry.	Worship support, including sanctuary improvements and guest musicians. Live@First
Concert Fund	Provide subsidies for special musical concerts	
The Claude and Caroline Stevens Youth Fund	Monies for youth projects - any project that will benefit the youth of the church, middle school through college age	Projects Pending
The Steven Wells Fund	Support discipleship ministries (Christian Education) for children and youth	Projects Pending
Bob and Mary (Jeffers) Feldmaier Fund	Support music ministry with children, youth and young adults, including music education, music lessons, need-based assistance for choir camps and choir trips, and other like opportunities at Birmingham and Berkley First	New Fund!

Making a Bequest

Making a Bequest

Leaving Birmingham First a bequest in a will or living trust is the most common way to create a legacy to support ministry and mission for generations to come.

Types of Bequests

There are several ways you can make a bequest to Birmingham First.

Specific Bequest. A specific bequest involves making a gift of a specific asset such as real estate, a car, other property, or a gift for a specific dollar amount. For example, you may wish to leave your home or \$10,000 to Birmingham First.

Percentage Bequest. Another kind of specific bequest involves leaving a specific percentage of your overall estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 10% of your estate to Birmingham First.

Residual Bequest. A residual bequest is made from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has given away each of the specific bequests. A common residual bequest involves leaving a percentage of the residue of the estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 30% of the residue of your estate to Birmingham First.

Contingent Bequest. A contingent bequest is made to charity only if the purpose of the primary bequest cannot be met. For example, you could leave specific property, such as a vacation home, to a relative, but the bequest language could provide that if the relative is not alive at the time of your death, the vacation home will go to Birmingham First.

Bequest Language

To make a bequest, you should speak with your attorney. Your attorney can help you include a bequest to Birmingham First in your estate plan. As you work with your attorney, he may ask for the following:

The legal name for Birmingham First, which is The First United Methodist Church of Birmingham.

Our congregation's Federal Tax ID number, which is 38-1393844.

Contact Us

Please contact Pastor Shawn if you have any questions about how to make a bequest to Birmingham First or to request any additional information that might be helpful to you and your attorney as you consider making a bequest to us.

If you have included a bequest for Birmingham First in your estate plan, please contact us to let us know. We would like to thank you and recognize you as a Legacy Society Member.

Grants

Provided

Last 5 years

- Outreach/Advertising Support
- Horizons Stewardship
- CLC Projector and Screen
- FORWARD Initiatives
- Financial Peace Curriculum
- Staff Training
- Youth Choir Trip
- Welcome Center Staffing
- Arena Software Upgrade
- Security System
- Berkley First Support
- Endowment Dinner
- COR-Leadership Institute
- Website Redesign
- Fall Welcome Event
- Poverty Simulation Kit
- Men's Retreat
- Women's Retreat
- Planned Giving Software and Webpage
- Discipleship Ministries Support
- Young Adult and Youth Ministries Support
- Livestreaming Equipment Upgrades
- Online Course: Giving Thanks in Difficult Times
- Workshop with Diana Butler Bass
- Hybrid Meeting Technology Hardware
- Podcast Production Equipment
- Haiti Orphanage Support
- Technology Upgrades (tablets and laptop purchases)
- Strategic Planning Work

Legacy Society

Members

Legacy Society members have a current planned gift with the Endowment or have indicated they have planned a gift in their estate.

Anonymous (3)

Shedrick & Ryan Abney

Dr. Ralph* & Nancy* Bauer

Barb Baughman

Dwight* & Joan Benner

Craig & Debbie Berg

Lon Bone

Linda Buchanan

Jim & Katie Davis

Roy & Teena Dickerson

Tim & Laura Dickerson

Frank & Carol Driscoll

Fran & Janette Engelhardt

Aileen Erdmann*

Janice Erichsen

Brady & Tiffany Ericson

Lynn & Jan Evans

Bob Everson

Bob & Mary Feldmaier

Brent & Amy Fitch

Margaret Fitts

Don & Sue Foehr

Eric & Diana Freeburg

Michael & Jeanne Fritz

Lois Gaigalas*

Bob Gillow

Bill & Barbara Goode

Fred & Judy Green

Chris and Doris Hall

Rev. Gary & Bishop Laurie Haller

Rev. Dr. John E. & Judy Harnish

Tom Henderson*

Esther Heussner*

Clare* & Kay Higby

Jeff & Mixie Hockman

Russ & Sue Ives

Sam & Tove Jackson

Fran Jones

Jenny & Peter Kanefsky

Paul & Jackie Keller

If you have already included Birmingham First in your estate plans or would like further information about planned giving, please contact the Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Associate Pastor for Planned Giving, at 734-717-8947 or slewis-lakin@fumcbirmingham.org

Jerry* & Greg LaBrake

Eric & Candace Law

Shawn & Barbara* Lewis-Lakin

Eric & Candace Law

Ann Littleton

Greg & Wendy MacKenzie

Charlotte Mahrt

Mick & Sarah McClelland

Pauline McClew*

Gayle McGarvah

Robert & Sukie* McNutt

Gwen Moore

Howard R. "Skip" Neilson*

John and Sharon Newman

George* & Mary Ann Newton

Susan & Claude Oleson

Bill* & Jane Pettibone

Jan Query*

Duane & Deanna Ralston

Doug Reinhard

Roy Reiterman*

Rev. Dr. William & Kris Ritter

Richard & Lin Schoelch

Richard & Sara Shirley

Shane & Anna Spradlin

Joyce Stanton*

John & Liz Stevens

Bob & Ellie Sutherland

Chuck & Margy Truza

Gary & Margaret Valade

Jim & Merry Beth Valiquett

Tom & Rose-Marie Venier

Ron & Gerri Vander Molen

Peggy A. Walker

Sue Walters

Steven* & Lisa Wells

Dorothy Willison*

Zeno & Ann Windley

George & Julie Work

Gwen & Brad Zimmerman

* indicates Legacy Society Members who have passed on to Glory.
Thanks be to God for their life and faith!

By the Numbers

2020

General Endowment Fund at 1/1/20	3,802,691
Total Receipts	84,806
Interest, Dividends, and Market Appreciation (adjusted quarterly)	700,050
Fund Expenditures	(173,488)
Endowment Fund at 12/31/20	4,414,059
Gift Annuities at 1/1/20	812,682
Interest, Dividends, and Market Appreciation (adjusted quarterly)	151,357
Annuity Payments	(29,466)
Gift Annuities at 12/31/20	934,573
Endowment and Gift Annuities at 12/31/20	<u>5,348,632</u>

2021 (through June 30)

Endowment Fund at 1/1/21	4,414,059
Total Receipts	5,149
Interest, Dividends, and Market Appreciation (adjusted quarterly)	449,497
Fund Expenditures	(25,876)
Endowment Fund at 06/30/21	4,842,829
Gift Annuities at 1/1/21	934,573
Interest, Dividends, and Market Appreciation (adjusted quarterly)	95,170
Annuity Payments	(13,933)
Gift Annuities at 06/30/21	<u>1,015,810</u>
Endowment and Gift Annuities at 06/30/21	<u>5,858,639</u>

Your gifts

Make a Difference

IRA Rollover Gift

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift to us from your IRA.

Gift of Securities

Gift us stock (with a low basis) that has appreciated in the rising market and avoid capital gains tax.

Life Insurance Gift

Eliminate an old or unneeded life insurance policy by making a gift of the cash balance to support our work or consider making our congregation the beneficiary of a policy.

Life Income Gift

Make a gift for a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust and receive lifetime payments. Contact Pastor Shawn for a free illustration with your benefits.

Charitable Bequest

Make a gift to support our work that costs you nothing today. Provide for your loved ones first and then our congregation with a bequest made in your will or trust.

and giving can still benefit you!

While tax laws have changed, there are still many ways you can make a gift to our congregation and make a difference. Even with the changes, making a gift to us can still provide benefits to you. Visit our planned giving site at firstlegacy.org or contact Pastor Shawn (734-717-8947 or slewis-lakin@fumcbirmingham.org) to learn more about ways you can support our work and benefit this year.

Beneficiary Designations

A beneficiary designation is one of the simplest ways to make a planned gift to Birmingham First. Retirement plans, IRAs, life insurance, donor advised funds, and annuities distribute assets based on beneficiary forms. With a simple form, you can update your beneficiary designations and specify the individuals and charities you want to support..

Designating Birmingham First as a beneficiary is an easy way to leave a legacy of faithfulness.

For more information on planned giving, please contact:

Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin,
Associate Pastor for Planned Giving,
slewis-lakin@fumcbirmingham.org
or 734-717-8947 or visit firstlegacy.org

What to Give

Gifts of Stocks and Bonds

Donating appreciated securities, including stocks or bonds, is an easy and tax-effective way for you to make a gift to our organization.

Gifts of Real Estate

Donating appreciated real estate, such as a home, vacation property, undeveloped land, farmland, ranch or commercial property can make a great gift to our organization.

Gifts of Retirement Assets

Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets such as a gift from your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan is an excellent way to make a gift to our organization.

Gifts of Cash

A gift of cash is a simple and easy way for you to make a gift.

Gifts of Insurance

A gift of your life insurance policy is an excellent way to make a gift to charity. If you have a life insurance policy that has outlasted its original purpose, consider making a gift of your insurance policy. For example, you may have purchased a policy to provide for minor children and they are now financially independent adults.

For More Information on Gifts

Visit our planned giving site at firstlegacy.org or contact Pastor Shawn (734-717-8947 or slewis-lakin@fumcbirmingham.org). All gifts are subject to our Gift Acceptance Policy, which is available at firstlegacy.org (click on the “how to give” tab and the policy link is at the top of the page that will open) or may be obtained by contacting Pastor Shawn.