



Photo by Wingate Downs

## YOUR LEGACY MATTERS

All of us are indebted to those who precede us. We drink from wells we have not dug. We enjoy liberties we have not won. We share faith whose foundations we have not laid.

At the same time, we plant seeds for those who will succeed us. We dream and envision and set things in motion. The fruits of our efforts will be known only to God and to others whom we will never meet.

We are called to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we have to those who will follow. We are called to make a difference.

*It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.  
Matthew 13:32*

## FRANK SHERRILL



The late Frank Sherrill moved to Athens in 2016 and quickly found a church home at First Presbyterian.

A faithful volunteer during our Family Promise host weeks, before long he was co-chair of the team. He was an avid member of the New Voices Sunday school class and spoke often of the friendships he made there. Before he died Frank said, "FPC does a good job of doing good! When I look at what the church does, I see that it makes a difference in the world and locally. I am so grateful for First Presbyterian Church. The church means so much to me. I have left part of my estate to the church."

## SYDNEY AND TOMMY JACKSON



have been FPC members more than three decades, raising their children here and volunteering in many capacities including mission trips, ushering,

stewardship committees, search committees, PW, and Sunday school. Both elders, they say, "We believe that the act of giving is one of the most important spiritual practices a disciple of Christ can do. Generosity is contagious. It spreads from our financial assets to our time and talents. Just as one seed grows into a plant that can bring life to many, the gifts we plant today can create blessings that will endure for future generations to come at First Presbyterian Church. Of course, we have remembered the church in the surviving spouse's will. We are glad to give."

## THE 1820 LEGACY SOCIETY



Our church was founded by twenty-one faithful disciples of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day 1820. More than two hundred years later, we are continuing what God began through them. Joining the 1820 Legacy Society of First Presbyterian Church of Athens means that you will participate in the ongoing life of this congregation by including the church in your will or estate plans.

God has given all of us gifts to steward in our lifetimes ... and beyond. Just as we ask every member to participate in annual giving, it is our hope that every member also become part of the 1820 Legacy Society. Everyone has something to give, whether large or small. Everyone's legacy matters.

## OUR ENDOWMENT

Estate gifts given to the church go into our church's endowment. There are three main funds in the endowment:

- *Capital Facilities Fund* which supports our building and capital needs
- *Mission and Benevolence Fund* which provides outreach into our community and beyond
- *FPC Ministries Fund* which enhances our internal programs like children's, youth, and music ministries

*You may give an unrestricted gift or designate the fund(s) you prefer. Together our gifts will grow and make an impact for generations to come.*





# WAYS TO MAKE A LEGACY GIFT

## WILLS AND TRUSTS

If you do not already have a will or trust, we encourage you to make one. In this document, you can leave a bequest to the church of a certain dollar amount, a specific security or piece of property, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate after all other bequests, expenses, and taxes are satisfied. We can provide sample language, including a codicil to attach to an existing will.

## BENEFICIARY

Another way to leave a gift to the church is to name the church as a beneficiary of your retirement account (IRA, 401k, etc.) or life insurance policy. It is easy to change your beneficiaries via an online or paper form from the investment or insurance company. You may also set your financial accounts to transfer on death or make payment on death to the church.

## OTHER TYPES OF BEQUESTS

If you wish to give a gift to the church at your death but receive income from it during your lifetime, a pooled income fund or charitable remainder trust may be right for you. In a charitable lead trust, the assets you give can provide income to the church for a specified number of years and then be transferred back to you or your heirs.

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

We are happy to discuss all options with you. The 1820 Legacy Society enrollment form, a sample codicil, and other information are available on the church website ([firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org)). We also recommend you consult a professional for financial, tax, and legal advice.

**For more information, please contact one of the members listed below:**

**Kathy Bangle 706-540-7323**

**Fran Lane 706-543-1074**

**Jeffrey Trapnell 404-630-2535**

**Tom Wilfong 706-296-1170**



*To take the important step of joining the 1820 Legacy Society, please fill out and submit the simple enrollment form indicating that you have included the church in your will or estate plans. An online version is available on the church website.*

## FAITH GUIDES OUR GIVING



Amy and I love the wisdom of Psalm 24:1 – “The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is therein; the world and those who live in it.” Everything we have, everything we are, and everything we will be belongs to God, and God is extravagantly generous and gracious.

We have chosen to include a gift to First Presbyterian Church in our estate plan because the gifts that have been entrusted in our lifetimes are not ultimately ours. They belong to God, and through a legacy gift to our church, God’s generosity will extend to generations to come.

Please join Amy and me in including First Presbyterian Church in your will.

Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
FAITHFUL CONSIDERATION  
OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
LEAVE A LEGACY AND  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Psalm 90:1*

## ENROLLMENT FORM

*Please return to FPC Office Administrator, 185 E Hancock Ave. Athens, GA 30601*

*An online version of this form is at [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org).*

*For questions, contact Lucy Bell Johnson at 706-543-4338 • Church Tax ID #58-0669995*

NAME(S) (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**I/We have included “First Presbyterian Church of Athens, Georgia” in my/our will or estate plans via (check what applies):**

- Simple bequest in my/our will (or my surviving spouse/partner’s will)
- Beneficiary of my retirement account (IRA, 401k, 403b, pension plan)
- Beneficiary of my life insurance policy
- Transfer on death of my financial account or of a payment to FPC
- Pooled income fund
- Charitable remainder trust
- Charitable lead trust
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**I/We wish my/our gift to the church endowment be unrestricted.**     Yes     No

*If No, which endowment fund(s) do you want your gift added to:*

- Capital Facilities Fund* – supports our building and capital needs
- Mission and Benevolence Fund* – provides outreach into our community and beyond
- FPC Ministries Fund* – enhances our internal programs like children’s, youth, and music ministries

**I/We give the church permission to publish my/our name(s) as a member of the 1820 Legacy Society**     Yes     No, I prefer to remain anonymous.

Other notes:

SIGNATURE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**