

LEGACY SOCIETY DINNER

Earlier this month something truly remarkable happened at Trinity when we held the first celebratory dinner for Trinity's Legacy Society – those individuals who have remembered Trinity in their estate planning. With 80 of the more than 100 parishioners who have joined the society present, the evening marked a significant milestone in Trinity's history -- one that will bode well for future generations.

For most of my life I have always been grateful and impressed when a wealthy parishioner remembered our parish in his or her estate at death. In my former parish in Illinois, I served as a facilitator for some of the bequests, and quite frankly, I did so without ever focusing on the true reason of the “why” of the gifts.

However, the more I worked on the program, and continued to so on our return to Trinity seven years ago, I came to the realization that remembering our parish that nurtured our faith is not only a privilege of the more well-to-do, but in a real sense an “obligation” of each of us regardless of our level of wealth. I began to understand that what we are discussing is simply a recognition by each of us of an obligation within our profession of faith to return to God some portion of all we have enjoyed in our life's journey. It is a way to express thanksgiving.

The amount of the bequest is not the important issue, but taking the step of making a gift is what's important. We need to remember that through the grace of God we have been entrusted with all that we have had. Thus, it truly is our “gift” to be able to say “Thank you” in whatever amount we feel comfortable bequeathing to the parish.

My hope, and the hope of all of the Planned Giving Team and our Clergy, is that many of you, as parishioners of our wonderful Trinity Parish, will have a similar realization and include Trinity in your estate planning. Then next year join with your fellow parishioners – presently almost 110 strong – as we celebrate our second year as the Legacy Society of Trinity Episcopal Church and all that means for the future of our Parish.

Thank you and God's Peace,
Mack Day, Member of Trinity's Planned Giving Team