

THE NEW YORK AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEGACIES OF THE SAINTS

*We are surrounded by so great
a cloud of witnesses*

Hebrews 12:1



“Community in the City”

*by Ardy Davis with Ben Davis and Norma Samuels
Supported by a gift from Katherine Perry*

The passage in Hebrews and the “Community in the City” artwork in our entry continually remind us that a vast cloud of witnesses is cheering us on as we run the race that is before us: carrying out God’s will for us here. These saints who preceded us here have endowed us with material as well as spiritual gifts. Since 1980, for example, they have given us bequests totaling over \$8 million. Without their generosity, we would not be where we are today.

Here are a few of the many legacies they have left to us. These are not necessarily unusual, but they illustrate the many ways the saints have remembered their church. If you do not see the names of saints special to you, please excuse us, and remember that if we tried to describe all that we have received, the tome would be unwieldy.



The visionaries of the 1820s and 1920s who bought the land our church sits on today for \$183,000. It now has an assessed value of \$22.5 million.

The courageous congregation of 1948 who decided not to relocate to an outlying area but to build a new church in the center of the nation’s capital.



The 1859 Church

Elizabeth Lanier Dunn, whose \$3,000 bequest in 1912 was used to start the Endowment Fund.

Mary E. Deeble, daughter of Joseph Deeble who served on the Session from 1861 to 1909, left \$6,815 in 1929.

William P. Metcalf, who died in 1940, established by will the William E. and G. Helen Metcalf Memorial Trust, which provides over \$30,000 each year to the church to support medical care for the needy, relieve the distress of deserving persons in the District of Columbia, and aid those studying for the ministry.

Minna E. Conklin Stevens, who in 1941 bequeathed \$250 to the church for the welfare of children. Increased to \$2,000 by gifts from her husband **Cabot Stevens**, this endowment still supports the Deacons' work with children.

Anna Perkins Stewart, who joined the church in 1930, set up a trust in her will that since her death in 1946 has provided NYAPC some \$7,000 each year that the Deacons use for their charitable work among the poor and needy.



Sunday Morning in the Radcliffe Room

Howard S. Gott, a friend of this church, so valued his relationship that he bequeathed \$1,000 in 1954 that helped pay off the debt on the church building.

Frank Edgington, Clerk of Session for 41 years, used his will in 1973 to set up a trust providing income to the church to help the needy in the District of Columbia and those preparing for the ministry.

Elizabeth Freegan Reed, the first president of the Goodpasture Class, left us \$500 in 1974; half went into the Endowment Fund, half into the Benevolence Fund.

Sophie Helen Eisenhardt, whose will gave us over \$37,000 when she died in 1974; half went into the Endowment Fund, half into the Benevolence Fund.

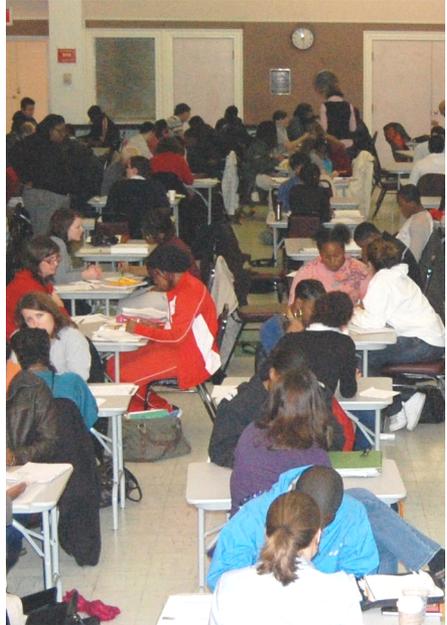
Marie Nelson, whose 1977 legacy of \$150,000 for helping the poor and needy in the church's neighborhood is still the largest gift that has become part of the Benevolence Fund.

Annie Jackson, long time church school teacher and member and librarian of the choir, whose \$6,200 bequest in 1979 was divided between the Endowment and Benevolence Funds.

Louise Schriber, who visited once from Florida, was so impressed by our work in the nation's capital that she bequeathed us almost \$5,000 in 1979.

Florence Helms' bequest of \$10,000 in 1981 financed special building maintenance projects.

Virginia Cochran, one of the founders of the Community Club Study Hall, left over \$12,000 for the Board of Deacons in 1983 to use to help the poor and needy and for programs of Christian social education and action. Combined with funds raised to memorialize her to form the Virginia Cochran Memorial Fund, it is now called the Virginia Cochran and David Brown Memorial Fund, in honor of both leaders of the Study Hall. Its income is used for college scholarships for Community Club graduates.



Community Club Study Hall

Herbert and Julia Ruckmick, on Julia's death in 1984, left almost \$375,000 as an endowment to provide income to keep up those parts of the church associated with Abraham Lincoln or to maintain the church as a house of worship and a center for God's mission in the Washington area and the world.

Albert McChesney's will in 1936 set up a trust that provided a life income to his wife and sister-in-law. When his sister-in-law died 48 years later in 1984, his will provided over \$130,000 to NYAPC. This bequest through 1997 funded such projects as renovating the second floor offices and bathrooms, building the Radcliffe Room handicap ramp, repairing the boiler system, and buying new computers, copiers, and Christian Education furnishings.

Francesca K. Frost, a longtime member who had moved to California, left \$10,000 in 1986 to form the Bert E. Frost Memorial Fund to provide income to NYAPC's Christian Education program every year.



The New York Avenue Church School

Grace Henderson Smith's will in 1989 provided over \$61,000 to the Women's Association Memorial Scholarship Fund that she had established in 1967 and that now provides college scholarships to Community Club graduates.

Isabella Larner Stott bequeathed \$5,000 in 1990 and her husband **Charles Stott**, a longtime elder, left \$10,000 in 1999 for the Endowment Fund.

Georgie Elizabeth Ramey, bequeathed almost \$446,000 to her church in 1991; and

Erma Ferguson, chair of the Women's Memorial Scholarship Committee for many years, bequeathed \$225,000 in 1992. These two bequests were combined and used for many purposes over a half dozen years: \$99,000 added to the Endowment Fund; \$92,000 to repair the roof; \$140,000 for air conditioning repairs; \$126,000 for budget support; and \$150,000 to support the 1990s' Funds Development effort.

Miriam Henrickson Moodhe, whose undesignated bequest of \$60,000 in 1995 was used by the Session to create an endowment to provide income to celebrate and enhance the ways that Christian education and mission complement each other. That income goes into the Christian Education Fund.

Agnes Grametbauer, assistant editor of the AveNews in the 1950s, transferred her membership in 1970 because she could no longer ride the bus to NYAPC, but she still loved our church and left us \$500 on her death in 1997.

Katherine Perry's will in 1997 gave \$10,000 to Meals on Wheels, \$40,000 to the Endowment Fund, and \$100,000 for the Diaconal Ministers (formerly Deaconesses) to start an Endowment Fund that now provides annual income for the caring work of that board.



Diaconal Ministers: Flowers for Shut-ins

Elizabeth McNaull, choir singer, church school teacher, elder, diaconal minister, and Meals on Wheels driver, left us \$10,000 in 2000.

Verda Roswell, an employee of the Veterans Administration who joined New York Avenue in 1951, provided us \$24,000 on her death in 2001.

Wilma McKee was a longtime office volunteer for her church and bequeathed \$10,000 on her death in 2001.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve

Ruth Bergquist sang in the choir, served as a diaconal minister, was a Meals on Wheels driver, and left in 2001 an endowment of \$5,000 to support the music program of the church.

Gwendolyn Edwards, a choir member and office volunteer, in 2003 willed \$21,000 to each of the Endowment and Benevolence Funds and \$5,000 to the music program.



The New York Avenue Church Choir

Inez McConnell, who joined NYAPC in 1955 but transferred to a church in Kearny, Nebraska, in 1978, still left \$10,000 to our Endowment Fund in 2003.

Louise Menefee bequeathed \$63,000 to the Endowment Fund and \$32,000 to the Community Club in 2006.

Carol Adsit, who sang in the choir in the 1960s and 70s and became a captain in the US Navy, provided the Choir Fund about \$10,000 when she died in 2009.

Charlotte Smith, a diaconal minister, who was a church member from 1948 to 1995 when she retired to Columbus, Ohio, left us \$1.47 million when she died in 2009, the largest gift ever received by our Endowment Fund.

James Patton, the church Financial Secretary for over 35 years, left \$2,800 to our Endowment Fund in 2010.

one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

Mildred Riley died in 1977 and her will set up a trust to provide income to several beneficiaries. On the death of the last income beneficiary in 2010, the will provided us \$46,000 and asked that one-third be used to aid women members caring for aging parents or husbands. That part was put in the Diaconal Ministers Fund to support such care.

Jack McClendon was an assistant and associate minister of our church for over 40 years and the founder of many of its mission programs. When he died in 2010, he left his entire estate of about \$1.5 million to fund an endowment to continue the annual Scholar in Residence Program he set up to provide the church, the Presbytery, and the community an opportunity to hear noted scholars discuss the latest thinking in theology.



McClendon Scholar in Residence

Marjorie Foster, a native of Canada who came here in 1965, worked in sales at McGraw-Hill and the technology company EMC. She joined New York Avenue in 1966 with her husband Ed Foster and served as elder, diaconal minister, and on the Planned Giving Committee. On her death in 2010, a charitable gift annuity she had established gave our choir (where she had once sung) \$2,812 and her will left our Endowment Fund more than \$500,000.



Since 2002, the church has received almost \$2.8 million in undesignated bequests. The Boards of NYAPC have adopted policies for the use of these bequests to support the church's mission and ministries. Those leaving the church undesignated gifts recently include:

Myrtle Bell, a member of our church for a quarter of a century and a Meals on Wheels worker, left us \$458,000 in 2002.

Gloria Forbes joined New York Avenue in 1949 and served as a diaconal minister and longtime office volunteer. During World War II she was a supervisor in the government's Verona code-breaking project. Her will provided us \$970,000 on her death in 2002.

Mildred Alexander, an IRS program analyst, served as an elder between 1972 and 1981. Although she moved to live with her sister in West Virginia in 1981, her will provided us \$41,000 in 2002.



The 2010 Sanctuary

Marie Wright, who worked on the AveNews in the 1960s, had joined NYAPC in 1958 after moving from New Jersey. Her will included an undesignated bequest to us of \$115,000 in 2002, plus \$10,000 for the Virginia Cochran Memorial Fund.

Eileen Stein joined NYAPC in 1952. Although she moved to California in 1996, she remained a member until she died in her 90th year. Her will provided us with \$181,000 in 2003.

Helen Jervis was born in Italy and there was a member of the Waldensian church, as was her husband Ernest, who came to Harvard in 1932 with a fellowship. He went back to Italy to marry her and they returned together in 1935. They joined NYAPC in 1958 and she was elected to the Session in 1971. She died in 2005, in her 94th year, bequeathing her church \$10,000.

Joseph Allen left us \$5,000 in 2004 and his wife **Grace Allen** left us another \$5,000 in 2005. Mr. Allen, a librarian in the Library of Congress, reformed and ran the church library when the present building was finished in 1951. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent, deacon, and elder. Mrs. Allen, a teacher and supervisor in Arlington schools, sang in the choir. The Allens joined another church in 1993, but their wills still remembered their old church.



Docherty Center–Sizoo Library

Grace Wilson, who worked in the State Department, served as a deacon and diaconal minister, a daily manager for the Meals on Wheels program, and a volunteer in the Radcliffe Room ministry. She left us over \$55,000 on her death in 2003.

Ruth Radue, who joined NYAPC at age 20 in 1931, married there in 1940, and served as a diaconal minister and member of the Ingleside Women’s Board, provided her church with over \$67,000 on her death in 2003.

Helena Weiss was Registrar of the Smithsonian Institution for 22 years until she retired in 1971. In our church she served as elder, diaconal minister, and for many years was a leading member of the Women’s Association Memorial Scholarship Committee. She left us \$515,000 on her death, a few days short of her 95th birthday in 2004.

Dorothy Jemison’s trust gave us \$20,000 when she died in 2007. She had not been a member of NYAPC, although her mother, Ruth Jemison, was a member until she died in 1978.

Norma Samuels, a member of the New York Avenue choir, left her church \$10,000 on her death in 2006. She wrote on the “Community in the City” artwork (reproduced on the front of this brochure) the names of all the members of our church from its founding in 1803 to 1995, the year the artwork was created.

Ruth Leiner was a longtime singer in the New York Avenue choir and a member of the Board of Diaconal Ministers. A case worker in the District of Columbia Red Cross, she bequeathed us \$71,000 in 2008.

Gloria Franke, a 40-year member of the NYAPC, served on both the Session and Board of Diaconal Ministers. She was also chair of the Stewardship Committee, a member of the Council on Funds Development and of the Ingleside Women’s Board. She was Honorary President of the American Pharmacists Association. She named her church a beneficiary of her annuity that provided us \$165,000 in 2009.



The Church Today

Robert Burcham joined NYAPC in 1958 and served as a deacon from 1972 to 1978. He transferred to First Church in Arlington in 1991, but remained a key member of the Lincoln Commission and left NYAPC \$3,000 when he died in 2010.

These bequests have permitted the church to add \$445,000 to the Endowment Fund, build the new first floor entryway and Docherty Center, buy new pew cushions, help renovate the sanctuary, repair and upgrade heating and air conditioning, and contribute up to 15% of our annual operating expenses.

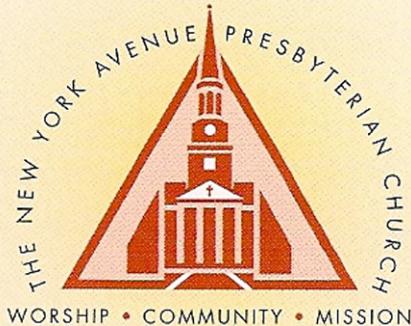


You also can provide a legacy to The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church by remembering the church in your will or estate plan. If you would like information on charitable estate planning or wish to discuss possibilities of making a legacy gift to the church, please contact:

Evelyn Ying, Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts
301-495-5912 or eying@nyapc.org

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www.nyapc.org



One generation shall laud God's works to another.

(Psalm 145:4)

*Prepared by the Planned Giving Committee
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