

# AVENEWS

Newsletter of THE NEW YORK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Washington, DC

*This special supplement includes an important article inadvertently omitted from the June 2010 issue of AveNews. - The Editors*

## Creating A Legacy: Our Story and Witness

by Evelyn Ying

What legacies in words, deeds, and treasures do you want to leave behind? What will others say was most important to you? These were some of the questions raised and discussed during worship and Christian Education classes held in conjunction with **Legacy Sunday** celebrated on April 25 at the NYAPC.

### Providing a Witness

Pastor Roger Gench preached on Legacy Sunday, inspiring us to create legacies by telling our story of what we believe, what we hope, and what we are called and intend to do.

He told us that how we use our time, talents, and resources provides a witness of our intent. Indeed, a will or estate plan can be a part of our witness, as informed by our calling to Christian discipleship and apocalyptic stewardship.

### Church Treasures

During the Time for Children, John and Cathy Schultheis, co-chairs of the Planned Giving Committee (PGC), delighted all by sharing John's treasure box, including special items from his childhood, church, the military, and the nation's bicentennial. Who knew that John had a cool collection of Bugs Bunny memorabilia!

Learning about legacies, the children identified many treasures at NYA, including the stained glass windows, baptismal font, Lincoln pew, and new organ in the sanctuary. But, they also discovered that the individuals who are NYA and the legacies they leave behind are the most important treasures of our church.

Planned Giving Committee member Amy Gillies gave a Minute for Mission

that acknowledged the importance of both material and spiritual planned gifts. Legacy gifts, small and large, have helped to sustain and grow the ministries of NYA. The PGC has Legacies brochures, which are also on the church website, for those who would like more information on leaving a legacy to NYA, explained Amy.

### Sharing Legacies of Faith

The PGC sponsored a well attended, two-part Christian Education series on "Sharing Your Legacies of Faith" led by Linda Lader. In the first class, Linda and members shared interesting family stories and discussed practical ways of creating legacies for future generations. Diverse ideas ranged from passing along treasures, photos, letters, and family traditions to writing memoirs or recording conversations of life stories among family and friends similar to those heard on NPR through "StoryCorps."

The following week, Linda held a workshop, where additional resources on creating legacies were shared. During this class, Tom Dunlap shared his experience of writing a memoir, a process that begins with answering "memory triggering" questions such as "For what are you most grateful and who or what has made a difference in your life? Others in attendance likely have been inspired to write about their own stories, families, and faith journeys to share with loved ones and others.

### Resources Available

Finally, during both CE classes, the PGC distributed helpful worksheets and booklets from the Presbyterian Foundation to assist NYAPC members with organizing

important records and preparing or revising a will or estate plan.

Indeed, NYA Parish Associate Rev. Jack Mathison informed others that after the first Legacy CE class, he had completed several of the worksheets and found them to be excellent tools in organizing and recording important personal and financial information.

Although it takes time to complete the booklets, he would recommend others do the same so that they have a good, if not comprehensive, record of their most important documents.

We hope that the events of Legacy Sunday will empower and inspire members and friends to continue to tell their story and provide witness to God's message and call in this community of faith that is The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.



### Resources

## Organizing Financial Information and Creating a Legacy

If you missed the Legacy CE classes and would like a copy of any of the Presbyterian Foundation booklets below, please contact any member of the PGC or Evelyn Ying, Director of Planned Giving/Special Gifts at [eying@nyapc.org](mailto:eying@nyapc.org) or 301-495-5912.

- *Composing a Legacy*
- *Guide to a Christian Will*
- *Personal Record Book*
- *Estate Planning Worksheet*
- *Make a Gift and Receive Lifetime Income*

These booklets provide helpful information about creating your own legacy or worksheets for you to record important personal and financial information.