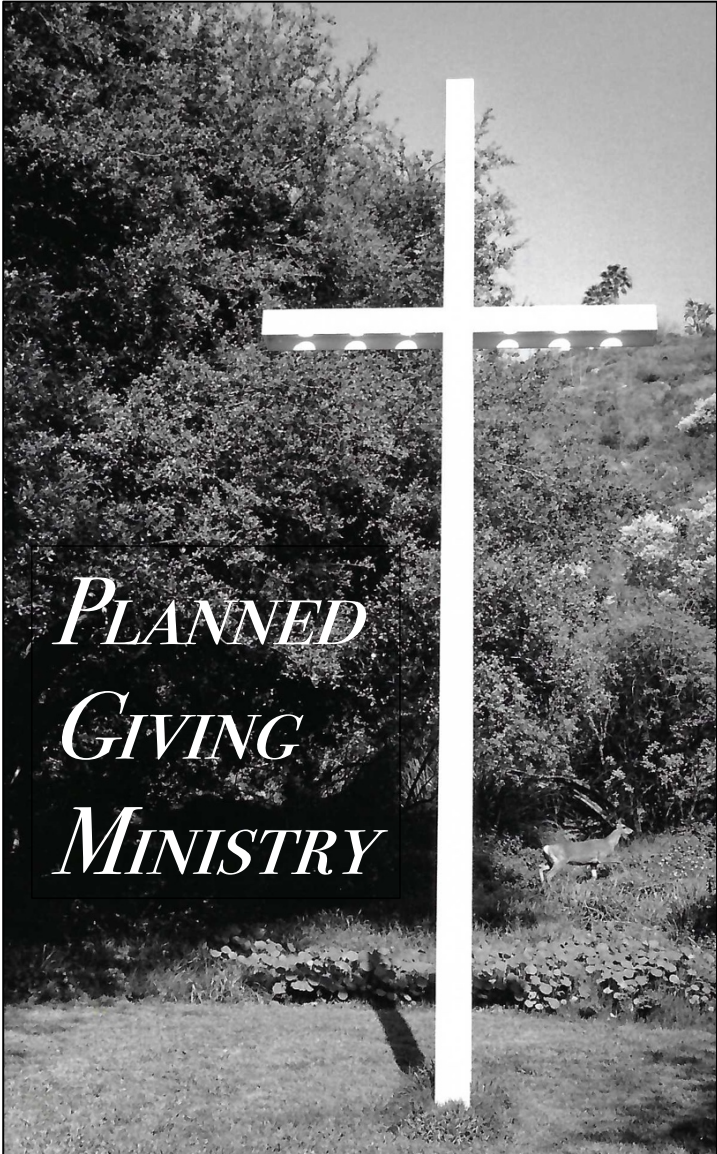




THE PARISH OF SAINT MATTHEW  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PACIFIC PALISADES



*PLANNED  
GIVING  
MINISTRY*

## PLANNED GIVING:

*An opportunity  
for parishioners  
and supporters  
to preserve and expand  
the work of the  
Parish of St. Matthew  
for future generations  
while providing  
for the welfare  
of themselves and  
their families  
during their  
lifetimes  
and thereafter.*





*St. Matthew's Church in 1963 (above) before the church and windmill were destroyed by fire in 1978. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and other supporters, the rebuilt church stands strong today (below).*



## PLANNED GIVING AT ST. MATTHEW'S

*"...it is the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families and of all persons to make wills while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."*

—*Book of Common Prayer, Page 445*

The Parish of St. Matthew has been blessed with the stewardship of a beautiful church, grounds and other facilities. In order to preserve these treasures for future generations, the parishioners who have enjoyed the use of these blessings need to help provide for their maintenance and renewal. A gift to the Endowment Fund of the Parish of St. Matthew is a wonderful way to acknowledge God's grace and the benefits conferred by a lifelong association with the Parish.

Planned Giving is the integration of charitable giving with tax-advantaged estate planning both during your lifetime and upon death. Estate planning is a process that assures that the work of your lifetime will be used to support your family and the institutions that you have valued during your life. Delaying your estate planning could reduce your ability to maximize potential retirement benefits, gifts to your heirs and religious and charitable bequests. Through well-conceived Planned Giving, you can actually enhance the value of your estate for yourself, your heirs and the ministries you support.



# THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund of the Parish of St. Matthew was established to receive, invest and administer bequests and charitable gifts to the Parish. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to preserve and expand the work of the Parish, including providing cash to maintain the substantial property and facilities and assure their survival for future generations. The stewardship of these facilities requires support of the parishioners and community who have benefited from their use. By creating the Endowment Fund which provides funds to maintain the Parish facilities, the funds provided by annual pledging and giving can then be used to expand Parish programs and community outreach. In this way, the Parish can be free to minister more effectively to the needs of the parishioners and others in the community. The Endowment Fund will enable the Parish to become even more active in its Christian mission in the future.

The Endowment Fund Resolution establishes a Committee to administer the investment of the principal and the disposition of the fund assets. The Committee is under the supervision of the Vestry of the Parish, and the Vestry will determine how the amounts available in the Fund will be used each year. The

Committee will invest the principal of the Fund with professional money management firms. The Fund will be audited annually by an outside certified public accounting firm, and only a restricted portion of the Endowment Fund will be used by the Parish. The principal will be retained and invested for the future. The Endowment Fund qualifies as a charitable entity for federal and state income and estate tax purposes.



## BENEFITS OF PLANNED GIVING AND ESTATE PLANNING

- Assures that your assets go to the people and institutions you value.
- Can reduce estate taxes and increase the value of your estate.
- Can increase your income during your lifetime.
- Avoids costly probate fees at your death.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLANNED GIVING

## ***1. A Simple Bequest in a Family Trust or Will***

Some 50 to 70 percent of all church members die without an estate plan. Without a plan, the state will divide your assets among your spouse and children and appoint an administrator who will charge fees, appoint guardians for your minor children, and pay necessary taxes without making any charitable gifts. By making a trust or will, you can control how these matters are handled. If you already have a will or living trust, amending it to include St. Matthew's is very easy and inexpensive to accomplish.

## ***2. Life Income Gifts (Charitable Remainder Trusts)***

If you give all or a portion of your estate to the Parish in trust, you can receive income from the donated assets during your lifetime and receive an immediate income tax deduction from the donated assets as well.

## ***3. Gifts of Life Insurance***

Making the Parish the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a convenient way to make a sizable gift. Premiums of life insurance policy are tax deductible and you can "leverage" your gift, ultimately making a much larger gift than otherwise possible.

## ***4. A Gift of a Life Estate***

If you deed real estate to the Parish, you can continue to use the property during your lifetime and the lifetime of any other beneficiary. You will receive an income tax deduction when the property is deeded to the Parish, avoid any capital gains taxes when making the transfer and reduce your estate taxes at your death.

## ***5. Gifts of Appreciated Property***

Securities, real estate or tangible personal property that has appreciated in value since you purchased it can be an excellent means of making a gift to the Parish. You do not pay capital gains taxes if the appreciated assets are transferred to charity, and normally, the value of the asset for income tax deduction purposes is the current fair market value, not the original purchase price.

## ***6. Gifts of Unused Funds in Retirement and Pension Plans***

Residual funds in IRA, Keogh, and 401 K retirement plans are usually subject to extensive taxation at your death. Gifts of retirement plan residues go 100 percent to the Parish and other charities of your choice and represent highly leveraged charitable bequests.

## DECIDING TO GIVE

*T*HE PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE includes parish members with a wide range of experience in estate and tax planning who are willing to assist anyone who wants to include St. Matthew's in his or her estate plan. These members will work with you and your family attorney to create an estate plan that reflects your wishes.

To receive further information on the opportunities described here, or to have a member of the Planned Giving Committee contact you personally, please return the enclosed confidential response card. Members of the Planned Giving Committee and Clergy of the Parish of St. Matthew are available to answer any questions you may have regarding making a charitable gift or bequest to the Endowment Fund of the Parish of St. Matthew.



Photography by Chuck Gardner

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