



Legacy of Gratitude and Giving

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17

By Lou Ann Blaylock, President, Foundation Board of Directors



With the season of gratitude upon us, we took time at a recent First Methodist Church of Fort Worth Foundation board meeting to consider our many blessings. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, at that gathering we asked our board members to tell us what they were thankful for in regards to our Foundation and Church. I wanted to share some of their heartfelt observations with you in this blog.

Long-time board member **Vernon Bryant** spoke for all of us when he stated that he was thankful for our thoughtful Church and Foundation founders, those who set the stage for generations of families to enjoy and sustain their vision for the future. Many expressed thankfulness that the Foundation’s funds are being held in perpetuity. Money and assets given to the Foundation’s endowments remain intact, with only the interest and income generated going into disbursements annually to the Church.

The generosity of our church members is what created and continues the Foundation’s support for our Church. We are continually thankful for legacy donations. Legacy giving reflects a form of charitable giving that allow one to make a gift and know it will continue to provide support for our Church in perpetuity. Through legacy giving, a donor’s philanthropy and memory live on. Fellow board members acknowledged thankfulness for such a model. They also were grateful for the Foundation’s staff that safeguards its security, for the board’s willingness to share advice and for the frugality that has been a principal characteristic of our Foundation. Being frugal assures that investments can grow and income amounts released annually can increase, as well.

At the heart of our thankfulness was gratitude for our marvelous worship services at First Church. We have a strong heritage of preaching and mission outreach. Our clergy and staff of smart, caring professionals inspire us every day of the year. And we are continually grateful for being able to maintain the beautiful spaces in which we worship, study and reflect.

Finally, we are grateful for the ability to take the long view. By doing so, we can move forward with ongoing confidence in the ability of the Foundation to help our Church year after year after year.

Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for the opportunity to be a part of our fine Foundation and our great Church.

This article is the next in our series illustrating the inextricable connection between the Foundation and the Church. Our goal is clear understanding about the Foundation's sole focus -- our funding goes only to the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth, has it has been for 51 years. Dedicated to transparency in communications, we are here to address questions about why the Foundation exists and how it operates in the best interest of our Church. We hope you enjoy the messages.