

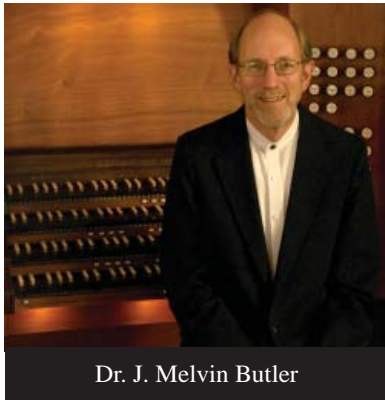
# willing & able

*your  
planned  
giving  
newsletter*

Vol 15 / FALL 2009



**Diocese of Olympia**  
Episcopal Church in Western Washington



Dr. J. Melvin Butler

***You are invited***  
***Please join us to hear Organist, Mel Butler***  
***at All Souls Memorial Organ Concert at Trinity Parish, Seattle\*\*\****

***Friday, Nov. 6, 2009***  
***Organ Recital 7 p.m.***  
***Reception with light food & drink in parish hall***  
***6 - 7 p.m.***

Bishop's Society members and their guests are invited to an All Souls Memorial Organ Concert at Trinity Parish, Seattle, on Friday, November 6, 2009. A reception with light food and refreshments takes place at 6 p.m., hosted by the newly formed Trinity Legacy Society. The concert, featuring Mel Butler, Canon Musician of St. Mark's Cathedral, begins at 7 p.m. Please will present the annual All Souls Memorial Organ Concert. Please RSVP "yes only" with Sharon at [spethers@ecww.org](mailto:spethers@ecww.org) or call 206-325-4200 or 800-488-4976 ext. 2041. \*\*\*For directions to church - visit [www.trinityseattle.org](http://www.trinityseattle.org).

## **BISHOP'S SOCIETY SUMMER CRUISE A HIT**

On August 22, eighty five Bishop's Society members and guests enjoyed a perfect summer evening on the MV Kirkland, an Argosy cruise ship, sailing for two hours from the Kirkland pier south down Lake Washington, enjoying a beautiful sunset. The ship is a converted small car ferry with large/high windows on both sides, allowing for panoramic views of the beautiful scenery. There was a buzz of conversation all evening with guests representing 20 different congregations across the diocese.

Over 200 pounds of food was donated by guests and taken to the Cherry Street, Northwest Harvest Foodbank the next day, at Trinity Parish, Seattle. In addition, over \$2,000 in combined gifts was donated to Episcopal Charities Appeal, Northwest Harvest, and We Will Stand With You.



Contemplating a beautiful sunset.  
The Rev. Kim Forman  
Church of the Ascension,  
Seattle.

Sharing a hello from the upper deck!  
Milt & Noreen Johnson  
Church of the Good Shepherd,  
Federal Way



## PROCRASTINATION, THE BIGGEST SIN IN LIFE PLANNING

By Carl Knirk, Canon for Planned Giving/Stewardship/Evangelism



The Rev. John Schaffer preceded me a decade ago as a part time planned giving minister in our diocese. I often heard him say when speaking to groups that the biggest sin in getting one's life planning affairs in order is PROCRASTINATION.

It is absolutely true. Talking with family and loved ones about how to distribute all the stuff we've accumulated, planning one's memorial service, completing a health care directive, updating or writing one's will, these are all tasks that can wait for another day or time. Often our children or relatives are not helpful, as they don't want to talk about the possibility of death of their mom or dad, brother or sister, or dearest friend. Yet, there is a 100% chance we all will die sometime, either suddenly or of natural causes. The rubric on page 445 of our Book of Common Prayer speaks to why it is our responsibility to take care of these things, including "leaving bequests for religious and charitable uses if able."

The Rev. David Storm, another senior priest in our diocese with much wisdom, always says to me, when I run into him, "Carl, You know I've never seen a hearse with a U-Haul behind it." This is also absolutely true. There will be no trailer hooked up to the hearse to cart all your "stuff" with you to the afterlife.

So, may I offer encouragement to you to not procrastinate, but instead request a copy of our

Diocesan Life Planning Manual which is the greatest gift I can offer you to help get your affairs in order. It's available for free at our diocesan planned giving website at: [www.ecwwgift.org](http://www.ecwwgift.org) You can download it in a pdf format and you can also copy it in a "word file" which allows you to fill in the document, save it, and keep it as well as send it on to your loved ones. One whole section contains information that your family and friends need when you die.

Having this most valuable information in one place where your family can find it is a great gift to them. Hopefully you've included your beloved church with an estate gift upon your death to carry on God's mission and ministry in the place you called your church home. For some of us that may mean gifts to more than one place or charity, it's up to us to decide. It has nothing to do with how much money one has. It has to do with acting on our own love for a God who has given us so many blessings, and a desire to give back in thanksgiving and joy.

Explore the website and use the resources of our diocesan planned giving program to encourage your brothers and sisters to include Christ's work as part their family distribution from all they've accumulated. Procrastination is not a good reason to put off until tomorrow what really should be addressed today.

Canon Carl Knirk is available to visit your church and lead Life Planning Seminar or offer the homily on Legacy Giving as Christian Stewardship.

## PLANNING AS GOOD STEWARDSHIP



by Dale Ramerman, Christ Episcopal Church, Anacortes, Washington  
member of the Bishop's Society of the Diocese of Olympia

**Steward: a person who manages the property or money of another.**

In the church, we talk about stewardship because we believe that all that we have, individually and as a community of faith, belongs to God, the creator of all that is good. Thus, whether we are dealing with our own money and property, or that of Christ Church, we act as God's steward.

Part of good stewardship involves taking care not only of what we have, but also planning for the future, our own future and the future of those we love. This is why Christ Church has taken the big step of buying the adjacent property. Just as we have benefitted from the generosity and foresight of those who came before us in our church community, we want to plan for those who follow. We know our present facility is already too crowded: imagine 40 kids at GIG on a Thursday night (which we had last week), or a congregational dinner for 75 in our parish hall that is crowded with 40 for dinner. We want those who follow to have a facility that will accommodate growth and the emergent church.

As stewards of our own affairs who plan for the future, we need to do at least three things. First, we need to organize and provide for the disposition of our possessions. I have many things I value but I know our children will not, such as my 1948 bicycle. As a good steward I should decide who gets my first bike (probably our own Red Door Thrift Store) rather than leaving it for our kids to sort out. And when I gift my treasured possession during my lifetime, I know I will keep the meaning and memory of them intact.

Second, as good stewards, we should have a will. How much better for you to decide what happens to what you own at death, than have your children or heirs be burdened with resolving who gets what. The law books are full of cases where children or nephews and nieces have fought over the estate of a loved one who has died.

Third, good, faithful stewardship calls for each of us, in our wills, to provide something for the church: for our own church community, for our Diocese, our national church, or some other church or church organization. We want future generations to have a church community that can welcome and support them and carry on the work of the church in the world. Providing for the church in your will can be as simple as providing that your pledge to the church shall be paid in full after your death; providing that a certain amount of money shall be given to a specific church or church organization; or providing that a percentage of your estate shall be given to the church. By remembering your church in your will, you make your memories and your Christian values live on.

When you remember the church in your will, you become a member of the Bishop's Society, and will join with those in the Diocese of Olympia who make up the largest diocesan recognition society in The Episcopal Church.

Dale Ramerman

*“They are  
like trees  
planted by  
streams  
of water,  
bearing  
fruit in due  
season...”  
-Psalm*

*1:3*

## NEW PLANNED GIVING WEBSITE GETTING LOTS OF ACTION



The new diocesan planned giving website ([www.ecwgift.org](http://www.ecwgift.org)) was birthed in February of this year and through August had received over 13,000 hits. Many are signing up for the weekly email newsletter that provides the latest news from Washington, a Savvy Senior column, gift stories, finance news and timely articles about legacy giving. The newsletter is free and you can opt in or out anytime you wish.

The website contains practical information on how one can leave a legacy gift to the church, as well as witness stories from members of the Bishop's Society sharing why they've taken these steps in their life planning. You'll also find the popular diocesan Life Planning Manual available for printing or to be saved in a word file. If your congregation is ready to start or revive a planned giving ministry, the tools to do so are on this website and you are encouraged to contact Carl Knirk for help in providing resources and training to keep this ministry fresh and relevant. It is all about acting on our own values and our Christian faith before it is too late.

*In discernment we move through and beyond our feelings, thoughts and reasons about what God wants of us. Discernment does not imply fully comprehending God's will - but rather it raises the question, "What is the next step God wants me to take?" "The heart has its reasons that reason does not know."*  
**Pascal**

The Bishop's Society for the Diocese of Olympia was started in 1993 by Bishop Warner and is one of the oldest and still the largest diocesan recognition society in our church. We now have 1300 members from 80 congregations in the diocese. About 10% of our members have passed away. Thank you to each and every one of you and we invite new members at any time by simply contacting the diocesan planned giving office.

### Membership in the Bishop's Society Top 14 by Congregation September, 2009

St. Mark's Cathedral	Seattle	203
Emmanuel	Mercer Is.	74
Good Shepherd	Vancouver	66
St. Thomas	Medina	55
Ascension	Seattle	51
St. Margaret	Bellevue	49
St. Stephen	Seattle	43
St. Augustine	Freeland	39
Epiphany	Seattle	33
St. Stephen	Longview	33
Good Shepherd	Federal Way	33
St. Andrew	Tacoma	28
St. Mary's	Lakewood	27
Christ Church	Seattle	26

### BE A SAINT,

#### SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH'S MISSION AND MINISTRY AFTER YOU DIE, RECEIVE INCOME FOR LIFE WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with the Episcopal Church Foundation and accomplish two very important things:

- 1) Support your congregation or any Episcopal ministry or program you wish.
- 2) Provide yourself a fixed, quarterly income for life, receive tax advantages.

Please contact the Diocesan Planned Giving Office at 1-800-488-4978, ext. 2016 to discuss your CGA options or to request an illustration of how a CGA may increase your cash flow, reduce your tax burden, and support your beloved church and favorite ministries.

#### Episcopal Church Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

Age	Rate
55	4.8%
60	5.0%
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%
90+	9.5%

## WHAT DO WE LEAVE BEHIND?

*By Sheila Preston Comerford, Trinity Parish, Seattle*

I am one of those people who didn't think a lot about dying. My parents didn't talk with my brothers or me about many things, including how much money they made, what they planned to do with their estate, or what would happen to us if anything happened to them. I know for a fact that they did not have a will in place until well after all of their children were out of the house. My father was superstitious and believed that signing a will could hasten his death.



I had never been to a funeral until I was in my late 20s. Having spent so little time contemplating death, the loss of a programmer that I had done some project work with affected me deeply, much to the surprise of my other co-workers. And then I met my husband, Jim.

Jim's father had been an insurance executive before he died in 1973. They not only took estate planning seriously, they actually enjoyed the subject! So, very soon after Jim and I were married, he made an appointment for us to see an estate-planning attorney so that we could have our wills and other estate planning documents prepared.

Jim, a cradle Episcopalian, introduced me to, among other things, his family, his church, and a greater appreciation for estate planning. Our daughter was born in 1987 and we, of course, updated our estate planning documents. We went about doing the things that many other folks do: we worked, we played, we attended church services, we raised our daughter. In 1998 Jim was diagnosed with cancer. He died in July 2000. As you can imagine, this was a difficult and stressful time for all of us, made a bit easier knowing that we had a plan in place.

Over the years, I've revised my will to reflect changes in my circumstances and values. One of the things I've done is to leave a legacy for the church. I want to leave something behind for future generations. After all, this is my community and I care about it. I have benefitted so much from being part of this community. It's a plan I can live with.

### Did you know:

The average age in the Episcopal Church is 62. The average age when a person last updates their will is 75. Is your will current and does it reflect your values? If you need assistance with your gift planning, contact Canon Carl Knirk at Diocesan House.

**FINAL AFFAIRS FAIR**  
**Saturday, February 13, 2010**  
**St. Mark's Cathedral, Bloedel Hall**  
**9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**A Workshop Designed to Help You Put Your Personal Affairs in Order  
as a gift to those you love**

Join well-respected Seattle based estate planning attorney, Tim Burkart, as he provides an overview of Estate Planning 101. The Rev. Canon Rebecca McClain, Canon Missioner, Saint Mark's Cathedral, will explore end of life issues and how the church is here to support you and your family. Carl Knirk, Canon for Planned Giving/ Stewardship, Diocese of Olympia, will provide tools and a handbook to help you imagine and design your legacy. All in three and a half hours with coffee and muffins.

For more information, contact Carl Knirk, Canon for Planned Giving/ Stewardship, at [cknirk@ecww.org](mailto:cknirk@ecww.org), 206-325-4200, ext. 2016 or visit [www.ecwwgift.org](http://www.ecwwgift.org).

**Five Steps to Financial Discipleship**

1. Everything you have is a gift from God. 2. No one has everything, no one has nothing. 3. All you have you will lose. 4. While you are in possession of it, you, and only you, decide how to use it. 5. How you use everything that passes through your hands will determine the kind of person you are and will become.



**DIOCESE OF  
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*Episcopal Church in Western Washington*

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