

# Leaving a Legacy at St. Thomas Episcopal Church



St. Thomas Episcopal Church • College Station, Texas



# A Guide to Making a Meaningful Endowment Gift



For generations, St. Thomas Episcopal Church has been a place where faith is nurtured, and strengthened, and lives are transformed. One of the most meaningful ways to ensure that St. Thomas continues to flourish today and long into the future is through a legacy gift to the church's endowment.





# What Is an Endowment?

## Why Does It Matter?

An endowment is a permanent fund in which the principal remains invested, while only a portion, typically 4 percent each year, is used to support the ministry, programs, and mission of the church. This means your gift is never spent down. Instead, it:

- Generates income every year, in perpetuity
- Strengthens the church's long-term financial stability
- Allows St. Thomas to plan for the future with confidence
- Ensures your values and generosity continue blessing others well beyond your lifetime

Because the principal remains invested and grows over time, your gift becomes exponentially more impactful than a one-time contribution. A legacy gift today can support worship, outreach, formation, music, and mission at St. Thomas for generations to come.





# What the Endowment Supports Today

The St. Thomas Endowment currently holds approximately \$480,000. Under our spending policy, up to 4 percent of the fund may be distributed annually to support mission and ministry. This allows roughly \$19,000 each year to be used as a blessing, while preserving the endowment for the future.



One current example is the improvement of our shared gravel parking lot with St. Thomas Early Learning Center. Endowment funds are being used to regrade and stripe the lot, creating safer, more accessible, and more clearly defined parking spaces. This enhancement increases capacity and extends hospitality to many who use the space, including church members, families of the Early Learning Center, visitors, and Texas A&M essential workers who park here as guests. A simple improvement becomes a tangible expression of welcome and care.





# Looking Ahead:

## How the Endowment Can Bless Others

As the endowment grows, its annual distributions can support a wide range of ministries and needs, such as:

- Helping fund youth group mission trips and retreats that form young people in faith and service
- Strengthening outreach partnerships and extending care into beyond our campus during times of need
- Providing educational resources, books, or materials for future clergy or lay leaders
- Supporting parishioners pursuing ongoing spiritual education, discernment, formation, and Holy Orders.
- Caring for church property in ways that support long-term sustainability and hospitality

Each year, the endowment's return becomes an opportunity to bless others while remaining faithful to the future of St. Thomas.

## Why Make a Legacy Gift?

Most legacy gifts cost nothing today. By including St. Thomas in your will or estate plans, you can care for your loved ones while also making a lasting commitment to the church that has shaped your faith.





# How to Make a Legacy Gift

## 1. Include St. Thomas in Your Will or Living Trust

You may designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate after other gifts are fulfilled.

Sample Bequest Language:

“I give \_\_\_ percent of my estate (or \$\_\_\_\_) to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, located in College Station, Tx., to be added to its Endowment Fund.”

## 2. Complete a Legacy Gift Intention Form

St. Thomas offers a simple, non-binding Legacy Gift Intention Form.

Completing it:

- Helps the church plan wisely for the future
- Allows us to express gratitude in whatever way you prefer
- Does not create a legal obligation or limit your ability to make changes later

## 3. Other Simple Ways to Give

Legacy gifts may also be made through:

- Retirement accounts such as IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) plans
- Life insurance beneficiary designations
- Donor-advised funds
- Transfer on death or payable on death accounts

# Your Legacy of Faith

Legacy giving is not only for the wealthy. It is for anyone who has been shaped by St. Thomas and desires for this church to thrive long into the future. Every legacy gift, large or small, tells a story of gratitude, hope, and trust in God’s ongoing work among us.

If you would like to learn more about making a legacy gift or receive a Legacy Gift Intention Form, please contact a member of the Endowment Board, including The Rev. Korey J. Wright. Visit our website for additional details at [www.stthomasbcs.org/endowment](http://www.stthomasbcs.org/endowment).