



Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

A light by the lakeshore



Paul Beal, chairperson of the Planned Giving Committee, sat down with Barbara Bierbusse to discuss Planned Giving.

What prompted your planned gift to the church?

The church has played a very important part in who I am - from my baptism on my first birthday on Easter Sunday, to Sunday school, to singing in the youth choirs, to playing the organ prelude and postlude when I was in high school, to being married at the church, to baptizing our daughter and watching her participate in Sunday school and choir, to leading service guild and participating in the church fair, to several terms on the Trustees.

During my service on the Board of Trustees I became aware of the significant role that Planned Giving has made in the life of the church. Bequests, charitable trusts and other planned gifts have allowed Grosse Pointe Memorial Church to continue to support programs and traditions that are an integral part of our church. The ministry of God through GPMC will flourish in the future because of these gifts.

How did you go about making your planned gift?

Several years ago when Jim and I were updating our estate documents we added several provisions in our revocable living trust documents:

Upon the last of us to die, we give a specific dollar amount to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

If upon the last of us to die, our child and grandchildren have predeceased us, we give a small amount to siblings and nieces, but the bulk of the estate is divided among the church and other charitable organizations that we have been involved with over our lives. We want to continue “nourishing the seeds” that have been planted during our lives.

Will you consider any other ways to accomplish your legacy?

At a later date we may make GPMC a partial beneficiary of our IRAs, consider a gift annuity, or make sure our daughter Becky knows to distribute any funds remaining in our donor advised fund to the church.

Do you have any advice on how to make a planned gift?

My experience has been that you decide what you want to do and then work with your advisors to explore the many possibilities. Since each individual’s circumstances and desires are unique, planned gifts are very specific to your situation.