

# WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

**REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL** – A person can designate a specific cash amount or a percentage of one's estate to be given to the Permanent Endowment Fund. This becomes a lasting legacy, a true "testament" or testimony of one's faith.

**MAKE SMALL (OR LARGE) PERIODIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEF** – These can be in memory or honor of someone or just contributions as a lasting benefit to the church.

**STOCK GIFTS** – Specific stock(s) in a person's portfolio can be given or left to the church.

**REAL ESTATE** – Gifts of real estate or personal property can be given or left to the church.

**INVESTMENT VEHICLES** – The United Methodist Foundation of North Alabama offers a number of charitable gift investment vehicles such as annuity trusts and unitrusts which allow a donor to receive a lifetime income and charitable gift tax deduction, all the while knowing they have remembered the church in a special way.

**LIFE ESTATE** – Donors can create a life estate which allows the donor to live in his or her home guaranteed for life, with the home left to the church upon death. The donor receives a generous tax deduction when the Life Estate is created.

**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY** – A donor can receive up to 9% on a Gift Annuity. This is a great return when compared to a certificate of deposit! A donor receives a great income stream that is fixed for life — income will never go up or down. In addition to great income, the donor also receives a generous tax deduction. At the end of the donor's life, the remainder is transferred to the PEF.

**CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST** – Assets can be left to the church in a Charitable Remainder Trust, another method of planned giving. Benefits of this arrangement are similar to the Charitable Gift Annuity, but the mechanics are different.

**MAKE THE CHURCH AN IRA BENEFICIARY** – Through the VHUMC Foundation, a person may name the church as beneficiary of an IRA. Individuals named as IRA beneficiaries often lose 50% of the proceeds to taxes. Naming the church as beneficiary eliminates the taxes and the full amount goes to the church.

**PAYABLE ON DEATH (POD)** – A person can designate a certificate of deposit to be "POD" to the church. At the end of the donor's life, the bank transfers the funds to the church.

# PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND



**VESTAVIA HILLS**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## HISTORY

Twenty-two people gathered for worship on October 19, 1952, at a small community center in Vestavia Hills. This was the beginning of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. Thomas Warren (Tommy) Ogletree, a Birmingham-Southern student and youth director at Bluff Park Methodist Church, was appointed as the first pastor. On April 5, 1953, 114 people became charter members at an Easter Sunday outdoor service. T.M. (Marshall) Burgin provided a flatbed truck for the pulpit and choir "loft." For six decades, VHUMC has been in ministry with the Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, Homewood, Hoover, and Birmingham communities.

## PURPOSE

At Vestavia Hills UMC, adults, youth, and children experience a life-giving, healing, hope-lifting relationship with God and have many opportunities to grow in faith as we worship, study, and serve together. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by learning, telling, and living the story of our faith.

## VESTAVIA HILLS UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

In 1985, Annie Lou Ellis established two endowments for music scholarships in memory of her husband, Edwin. Others in the congregation began thinking about legacy gifts, and in 1987, the Vestavia Hills United Methodist Foundation was founded with 15 funds. Some were already in existence, and some were new funds. Another early endowment was the Maurice F. Bishop Fund which supports ministries with children, the aged, and handicapped as well as scholarships for persons preparing for church-related vocations. A complete list of the funds in the VHUMC Foundation can be found on the church's website along with the most recent quarterly balance in each fund.

The VHUMC Foundation is administered by a board of directors whose names are also listed at the VHUMC Foundation page on the church's website.

## PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Begun in the 1990's, **The Permanent Endowment Fund** receives contributions and such proceeds are held in trust, invested, and become part of **The Permanent Endowment Fund**. Investment income and earnings from the endowment are directed to support missions, buildings and facilities, and special and extraordinary projects. No part of the principal is to be used but is to be held for the benefit of future generations.

In previous years, the endowment has funded a number of significant projects including tools and medicine for foreign missions, facility upgrades, scholarships for seminary education, and program ministries for youth and children. **The Permanent Endowment Fund** makes possible special ministry opportunities beyond the scope of the normal ministry budget.

## LEGACY

Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church has been and continues to be a vital part of our lives. Through baptism and confirmation, children and youth ministries, Christmas and Easter celebrations, weddings, hospital visits, funerals, and a host of other ministries, the church has been a major influence throughout our lives. We have inherited many ministries and facilities that were built by those who came before us. **The Permanent Endowment Fund** offers us a way to build upon the legacy we enjoy today and to continue the legacy for those who will come after us. What better way to honor the call of Christ than to share a gift with **The Permanent Endowment Fund** to pay it forward with a legacy for generations to come!

