

Honoring Loved Ones

A gift to the church's Memorial Fund is an excellent way to honor a faith-filled life. The committee name may suggest these gifts honor only lives of those who have died. **Not so!** A gift can also honor a person who continues to live grounded in faith. Churches can begin to actively encourage both Honor and Memorial gifts by developing a **Wish List** of things that can further the church's ministry. As special days approach – Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Christmas, the church family can be reminded of this lovely gift idea. The resources that follow can help get your church started in highlighting these gifts.

To request these resources in a WORD format, contact [Janet Boryk](#) at the Foundation office.

Sample Bulletin Announcement

You can celebrate a significant occasion (*or insert a specific day, i.e., Mothers Day*), remember a loved one, or honor someone special with an honor or memorial gift in their name to the church Memorial Fund. Your gift will honor your loved ones and honor the values their lives affirm. We will gratefully acknowledge your thoughtful donation by notifying the person or family member you designate (no gift amount is disclosed). Contact the church office for details.



A Gift of Gratitude

Sundays in May and June are sometimes set aside to remember special loved ones – moms, dad, veterans, our mentors and guides. Many have shown us how to live with integrity and faith by practicing their ministry day by day.

Remember and celebrate these lives with a gift to the Church's Memorial Fund. And your generosity will pass on those worthwhile values so they continue to influence the world around us.

The church will promptly notify your loved one, or, if deceased, their family, that a gift in their honor has been received (with no dollar amount).

Make your gift by completing and returning the form on the other side of this page. Or contact *(insert name of trusted person who will give more information)* for more information.

Bulletin Insert



(Insert Name of Church)

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐Other _____

☐In Memory of ☐In Honor of

Name

From:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please send acknowledgment to the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Relationship to honoree _____

Newsletter Article

A Gift of Gratitude

Sundays in May and June are sometimes set aside to remember special loved ones – moms, dad, veterans, our mentors and guides. Many have shown us how to live with integrity and faith by practicing their ministry day by day.

We might mark these occasions with flowers and neckties. Or we **could offer our gratitude with a gift to the church's Memorial Fund in their honor.**

The Church uses memorial gifts for a variety of needed items that are beyond the annual budget. *(Insert here some examples of items purchased with memorials during the last year or two)*. And your generosity passes on those worthwhile values so they continue to influence the world around us.

And the church promptly notifies your loved one, or, if deceased, their family, that a gift in their honor has been received (with no dollar amount). The Memorial Committee will be in contact regarding a specific use for the gift. *(And, on All Saints' Sunday the gift will be dedicated to God's glory and the ministry of the Church).*

Make your gift by completing and returning this form or by contacting *(insert name of trusted person who will give more information)*.

Insert Name of Church

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐Other \$_____

☐In Memory of ☐In Honor of

Name

From:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please send acknowledgment to the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

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Developing a Wish List & Brochure

Getting Started

With the input from Memorial Committee, trustees and staff (or other appropriate group in your church), develop a list of things that would be useful to further the church's ministry and/or "spruce up" the building. Before circulating the list be sure to follow your church's policies regarding approval of such items. Some churches require approval from the Administrative Council or Trustees before such a list is circulated. Often churches confer with the honoree or their family before the actual purchase is made.

The idea of a Wish List is to help people begin to dream about the kind of gift to the church that would best honor their loved one or their love for the church- and to give them some idea about the cost of the item. The Wish List could be formatted into a simple brochure for ongoing use. Just be sure to update the list at least annually! Some ideas of items for a Wish List are listed below just to get you thinking. Anything circulated should say that gifts of any size are welcomed, and that the dollar amounts are for information purposes only.

Though frequently used for donations to the Memorial Fund in remembrance of a loved one, the list can also be used for gift ideas when people have received an inheritance, recently retired, or other special circumstance that rings them one-time funds. The list should be reviewed in concert with the current vision and strategic plan of the church.

Suggestions for a Brochure

Honor, Memorial and Special Gift Fund Wish List

Here are some ideas of items that will enhance our ministry **and** recognize and honor your loved one. If you have an idea of a fitting memorial gift that is not on the list, please contact (insert name of contact) to discuss the possibilities.

Gifts of any amount are welcomed, and the gift does not need to cover the full dollar amount of these "wishes". Some families may wish to make additional contributions until a "wish" is fully funded so that it can be obtained for the church in honor of their loved one.

Some Ideas for Gifts

Sponsor a youth outing	\$100 - \$1,000
Music for the choir	\$100 - \$500
Sponsor one person on the annual church mission trip	\$1,000
Sponsor a Concert	\$1,000
Sponsor a Celebration Meal for the annual stewardship campaign	\$2,000
Computer equipment upgrades for the office	\$5,000
Fund a mass mailing to our neighborhood	\$2,000 each
Contemporary Worship Equipment	\$20,000
Attendance pads and holders	\$1,000
Updated furniture for meeting room	\$2,000 - \$5,000
Update church restrooms	\$15,000
Worship space carpeting	\$20,000
Paint for education rooms	\$100 - \$500 per room

Developing a Wish List & Brochure

How to Make a Gift

Complete and return the form below to the church office. We will gratefully acknowledge the gift both to the honoree (or person you designate) and to you.

(Insert Name of Church)

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐Other \$_____

☐In Memory of ☐In Honor of

Name

From:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please send acknowledgment to the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Relationship to honoree _____

Letter to Active Members and Friends

(Note: The letter should be signed by the pastor, chair of the Memorial Committee or other church leader who will commit to making a gift to the Fund. The letter that follows is just an idea – the writer should customize it to their situation! Include the donation form, an envelope addressed to the church and a brochure about your church's Memorial Fund or a Wish List if you have one. Ideally the letter should be sent about one month prior to the holiday you name, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Memorial Day...)

Date

Dear _____,

Mothers Day is coming! In the church we sometimes call the day the Festival of the Christian Home. I love that. This is a day to celebrate all who instill the love of a grace-filled God into our everyday lives.

In my family growing up, this was both my mom and dad. Our home welcomed friends and new neighbors; we prayed together daily and attended worship as a family; we helped people – some we knew and some we didn't; we gave money and time. And I remember the times mom and dad pointed out the modern-day faith stories that happen around us.

So I have decided that the best way to honor my parents this year is by making a gift to the church Memorial Fund in their honor. And I am inviting my sister and brother to join me. My folks passed on the faith to us, and I can think of no better gift to honor them.

Who brought you to church for the very first time? Who taught you about Jesus? Who showed you what it means to "love your neighbor"? Who showered you with love and forgiveness when you really blew it?

Be thankful for those who brought you to Christ. And consider a gift to the Memorial Fund in honor or tribute of these lives well-lived.

Peace and Grace,

Enclosures – Donation Form, Wish List (if you have one) and Envelope addressed to the church