

Legacies



A Quarterly Publication of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana

Spring/Summer 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wills and Bequests:
One Simple Act;
Many Great Results
Page 2

Retirement Tools
Online
Page 3

Foundation
Celebrates 35th
Anniversary
Page 4



A LOVE OF METHODISM

Sandra Kuykendall likes structure. She lives by routine, working out at the gym every morning before getting on with her day.

Sandra's "day" usually includes volunteer work with St. John's UMC, and its Opening Doors program, which provides an art camp for children living in a needy area near the church. She also counsels these families on personal finance. In the spring, you will find her helping clients at Catholic Charities with their tax returns.

"My volunteer work might be a little ecumenical," admits Sandra, "but I was born Methodist, and Methodist is all I have ever known."

With a flair for order and a love for the Methodist church, it is logical that she has included the United Methodist Foundation in her will. "By giving to the Foundation, I know my gift will help churches. I know my wishes will be honored and my expectations will be met."



Sandra Kuykendall
Baton Rouge

This independent, financially savvy lady with a Master's degree in Mathematics has served as Finance and Building Committee chairman simultaneously at St. Mark's UMC of Baton Rouge. She is a retired math teacher and Exxon employee and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Foundation of LA.

"The Methodist church always has been a part of my life. I like its structure, the fact that it stands ready to help people in need, and I want it to continue."

Sandra is no stranger to stewardship either. "I am just a temporary steward of the resources God has given me. We are supposed to share and promote His kingdom while we're here on Earth, so I do what I can now. But when I'm gone I want to see the church continue, and a will can do that."

The idea of a bequest to the Foundation occurred to Sandra after completing the Foundation's Estate Planning Course a few years ago. The course was a "seminar by mail" designed to help people understand the benefits of estate and gift planning.

"You have to be aware that leaving a bequest is even possible," stated Sandra. "Most people think only in terms of leaving their assets to their children. But whatever you think you can spare to perpetuate the church, you should do that, too. It just makes sense to me."

"If we look at our assets and what we can leave behind, most people would be surprised to know that they can do something to sustain their church."

Like Sandra, you can put some "method" in your Methodism too. Another Estate Planning Course will be offered soon, or learn about wills now at www.umfgiving.org.



WILLS AND BEQUESTS

One Simple Act. Many Great Results.

It does not matter how rich, poor, young or old you are. The simple fact is that most people in this country do not have a legally binding will or estate plan.

While the cost of making a will is low, the price of not having one is high.

Wills and the reasons why people write them, or fail to write them, are legendary. In one of the most famous cases, a judge ruled Howard Hughes died without a will and his \$2.5 billion estate was split among 22 relatives, even though one person claimed to have found Howard Hughes' will on a church desk, and another said the will was found in a Nevada gas station. Many others who should have had a will never did. Abraham Lincoln, Sonny Bono, James Dean and Andrew Jackson all died without one.

It is perhaps unfortunate that will-making tends to sound complicated and confusing. It needn't be. Wills are simple to make and many young people have had valid plans. Anna Nicole Smith, Marilyn Monroe and JFK, Jr. all died with wills. Some

have had some interesting provisions. Janis Joplin died at age 27 with a will she revised just two days before her passing. It included a directive that \$2,500 be used to hold a party for her friends. Author Charles Dickens' will included instructions for what not to wear at his funeral while William Shakespeare's will took care of his "second best bed," but made no mention of his literary works.

Take time to talk with your family and your advisors about what is important to you and what passions, ideals and good works you want to continue beyond your lifetime. It is a great opportunity to let your family and your church know just how important they are to you.

It has never been easier or less expensive to have a will. Attorneys often charge low fees for all but the most complicated plans. Most attorneys are accustomed to clients who are new to will-writing, so they make the process easy and simple.

Those who write wills often remark at the good feeling they experience knowing they have made a difference that will last beyond their years. If you need help finding an attorney or want some general information, call or email us and we can point you in the right direction.



2010 Board of Trustees

Jan Holloway
Chair

Joseph Awotwi
Mae Calvin Belton
Omer Davis
Doug de Graffenried
Mike DeHart
Irwin Felps
James Goins
Lee Hampton
Frank Harrison
Sandra Kuykendall
Mark McMurry
Bill Potter
Alice Prophit
Larry Stafford
Fred Wideman

Rob Fairly
President

Contact Us:

8337 Jefferson Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Phone:
(225) 346-1535
(800) 256-9317

Web Addresses:
www.umf.org
www.umfgiving.org

Legacies Editor:
Kelly Johannessen
kellyj@umf.org

SAVVY LIVING

Retirement Tools

Dear Savvy Living,

Which websites can you recommend that are free, easy-to-use and provide good information on retirement planning?

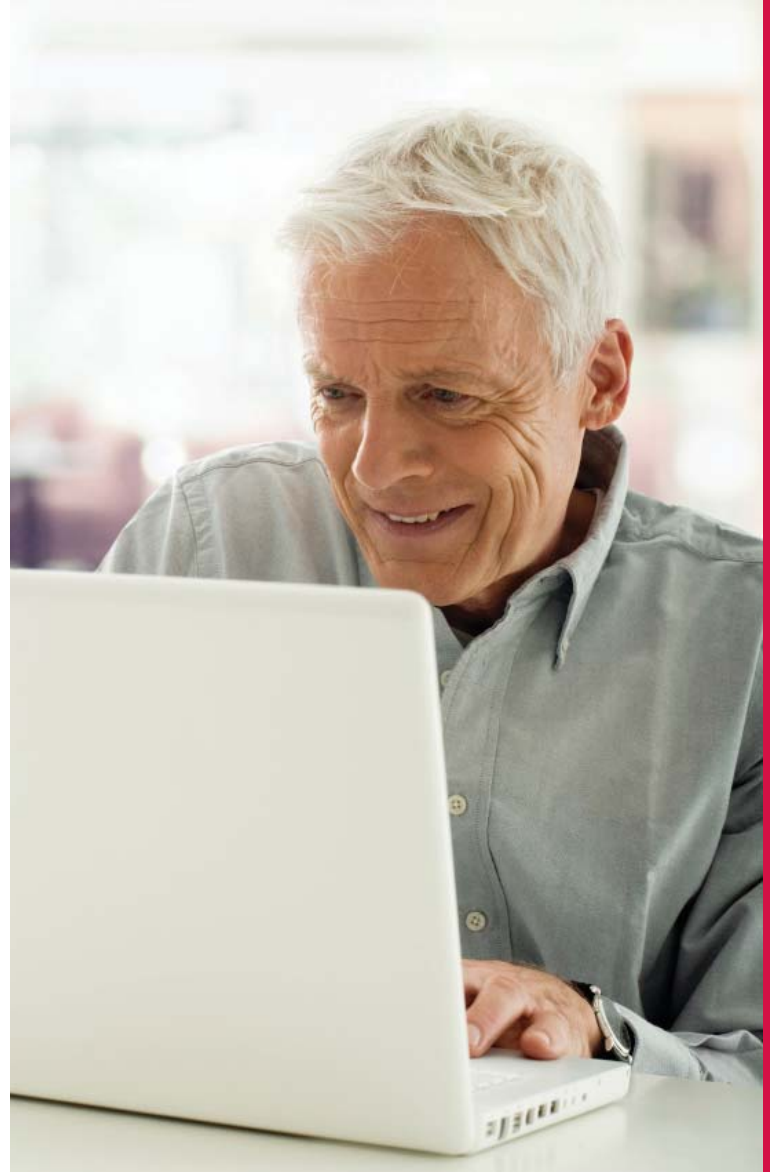
— Calculating Carl

Retirement Tools

Some of the best retirement planning tools and calculators on the Web today are offered through large financial service companies. While the purpose of these tools is to entice new business, most companies don't require you to be a client or purchase their products to use them. Here are four dandy sites to use, all of which are free: **WealthRuler** (www.tdameritrade.com/planningretirement/wealthruler.html), available at TD Ameritrade. This tool charts your retirement outlook and suggests ways to help you develop a plan to reach your goals; **Retirement Income Calculator** (www3.troweprice.com/ric/ric/public/ric.do) is provided by T. Rowe Price. This tool projects whether your retirement income needs will be met based on your savings, assets and age; **Vanguard Retirement Center** (<https://personal.vanguard.com/us/plannededucation/retirement>) provides retirement advice along with different calculators depending on your needs and age; **MyPlan Retirement Quick Check**, offered by Fidelity (Fidelity.com/myplan), starts with a fun "Snapshot" introduction that puts your retirement reality in perspective and will help you create a plan to help you reach your retirement goals.

Other Resources

If you don't like the company sites, there are many others you can turn to for free retirement planning information and calculators, such as:



Choose To Save (Choosetosave.org) created by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. This site offers the Ballpark Estimate retirement planning worksheet, more than 100 online calculators, savings tips and links to resources to help you manage your finances and plan your retirement; **CNN Money** (cgi.money.cnn.com/retirement/tools) provides a number of calculators that projects what and how much you need to save for retirement and how you compare with other people in your age and income level; **MSN Money** (moneycentral.msn.com/personal-finance) has a "Retirement and Wills Center" that offers a retirement planner and calculator and gives tips and strategies for saving for retirement.

"Savvy Living" is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to the *NBC Today Show* and author of *The Savvy Senior* book.



“Where Faith and Money Come Together”

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BATON ROUGE, LA
PERMIT NO. 2340

8337 Jefferson Hwy. ■ Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Address Service Requested

SIGN UP FOR
FREE RESOURCES AT
WWW.UMF.ORG

FOUNDATION NEWS



35th Anniversary Celebrated; New Board Chairman Elected



Bishop William Hutchinson

The Foundation celebrated 35 years of service in the Louisiana Annual Conference at its Annual Meeting April 27 at the City Club of Baton Rouge.

Guests included past presidents, past board members, donors and other Foundation advocates. Bishop William Hutchinson addressed the attendees, challenging them to continue fostering the Foundation’s ministry—that there “remains yet very much land to possess” (Joshua 13:1).

Reverend Jan Holloway was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees. She succeeds Mark McMurry of Sulphur who has

served a two-year term and will continue serving on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chairman.

New Board members elected were Frank Harrison, Lafayette; Mae Calvin Belton, Baton Rouge; Bill Potter, Baton Rouge; and Rev. Larry Stafford, Monroe.



Rev. Jan Holloway

Outgoing Board members, Frank McArthur, Baton Rouge; Dick Boisture, Jennings; and Rev. Don Avery, Natchitoches, were recognized and thanked for their years of service.