

Recalculating....

by Judy Brannstrom - Gifts, Memorials & Bequests Committee

Some years ago, we bought a Garmin navigation device for our car and set off on a long road trip. We were somewhat amused by the voice of the Garmin that directed us down the highway, turn by turn. We named that voice “Betty.” Whenever we thought we were smarter than Betty and took a different turn than she had suggested, a pause ensued. Then Betty would say, “Recalculating!” – and, of course, we laughed! Betty adjusted to the new route we had chosen and got us back on what she thought was the right course.

“Betty of the Garmin” has been demoted to our glove compartment. We don’t really use her anymore since our cell phones can give us directions just as handily. But I still think of Betty and find her to be an analogy for the “recalculating” we can and must do as we navigate life’s turns.

A recent solo road trip found me pondering life and realizing that certain seminal events are opportune times for us to recalculate – to take a check on where we are right now and to consider where we’re going. You know all the kinds of major life events I mean here – birth of a child/grandchild, death of a spouse or other loved one, marriage or divorce, moving to a new community, graduation, job loss or change, illness, retirement – these are some of the “biggies” that might cause us to readjust our course, or to re-set our priorities. Such events can also move us to plan for the legacy we want to leave someday by creating or updating a will or estate plan.

During the month of May, PCUSA churches across the land celebrate Wills Emphasis Sunday by gently reminding us to get our personal affairs in order through creation of a will or estate plan. This includes considering how God is calling each of us to contribute to the world beyond our own lifetimes. Making such plans while we are able is one of the nicest gifts we can give to our families rather than leaving them to guess what we might have wanted! Gifts given through a will or estate plan cost you nothing during your lifetime. Considering a legacy gift to Covenant through your will or estate plan is a wonderful way to ensure the future vitality of the mission and ministry of your church home.

If recalculating nudges you to create or update your own will or estate plan...well, that’s a very good thing! You can balance your own future needs, include considerations for those you love, and incorporate your philanthropic wishes. Once the documents are drafted, you will enjoy great peace of mind.