

## **A Gift of Life**

If you're thinking of making a gift to the church and feel you don't have adequate resources to do something substantial, you may be overlooking an opportunity. Please realize there is no minimum gift and anything you're willing and able to do in the name of benevolence to God will help the greater good. Many people plan for the various stages of their lives as time unfolds and sometimes plans at younger ages are no longer necessary as we get older. When raising a young family, life insurance is a necessity to protect the family in the event a premature death, but once retired and comfortable with an income stream that doesn't rely on getting up and going to work every day, the life insurance is often superfluous. Most folks have enough cash, investments or equity to pay for burial expenses. Although life insurance may no longer be needed, most people keep these old life insurance contracts hanging around since they're paid for, close to paid for, or extremely inexpensive and at some point will kick in and give loved ones a pleasant "surprise." Many people have done this planning on their own and some lucky ones are offered "freebies" from employers, pension funds, credit unions and other sources. When was the last time you pulled out and dusted off these old contracts? Do you even know where they are? You may be getting dividend payments on them, that will be a good place to start if you cannot find the original contracts. If you call the number on the check stub and request a duplicate contract and "in force illustration" it will give you a good picture as to where you stand with the contracts. Some people take these dividends payments or dividends received from stocks or other investments and buy new life insurance policies, naming the church or someone else close to their hearts as beneficiaries, leveraging the current resources to make a gift much larger than they ever thought possible. Once you've gained a good insight on where you stand, consider changing the beneficiary, in full or in part, to the church. It's a great way of making a gift to God. You can change a beneficiary anytime you'd like, without restriction. If you want to make sure that your wishes are never changed later in life, you can make the beneficiary election irrevocable, which can never be changed, even by you. If you'd like any additional information or would like to discuss this further please see Mike Chadwick.