



VARDRY McBEE SOCIETY

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who was Vardry McBee? He has been called the Father of Greenville in recognition of his many contributions to our community. On September 2, 1825, Vardry McBee donated “four acres and twenty-three poles” for the establishment of an Episcopal Church, the first of Greenville’s original downtown churches. Mr. McBee also donated land and lumber for the first Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Catholic churches in Greenville.

What is the Vardry McBee Society? It was established by Christ Church and the Christ Church Endowment Corporation to honor those who include our parish in their estate plans. Gifts of any amount qualify. All it takes to become a member of the Vardry McBee Society is to inform the church that you have made provisions for Christ Church in your will or estate planning.

What is the endowment? The endowment is a source of investments that are managed conservatively to provide annual funds to develop and enhance ministries and properties beyond what is possible through the annual operating budget. The endowment contributes about 15% to our operating budget each year. It is not a savings account that is spent when times are tough, but a permanent and ongoing source of funding based solely on the income generated each year. The endowment fund provides assurance that the life and ministry of Christ Church will continue in perpetuity.

How many funds are in the endowment? There are 37 church funds and 26 funds that benefit Christ Church Episcopal School. Each church fund has a specific purpose and falls under one of these categories: Christian Education/Discipleship, Mission/Outreach, Music/Worship, Buildings and Grounds, General, Pastoral Care, and CCES Scholarships (Vestry Owned.)

Can gifts be made during my lifetime? Yes! The church appreciates gifts during and/or after a member’s lifetime. It may be advantageous to the donor to make their endowment gifts during their lifetime as opposed to the donor’s estate making the gift after their lifetime. Donors should consult with their financial advisors to determine the best course of action for their unique financial situation.

Do I have to contribute to an existing fund, or may I start my own fund? You can contribute to an existing fund or start your own named fund with a \$50,000 minimum contribution. This can be created with an initial down payment of at least \$20,000, payable over up to five years, with the remainder of up to \$30,000 coming from either a legacy gift or by subsequent payment during the donor’s life.

How may I designate my gift to a certain ministry area? We can discuss the options if you have a specific desire for the use of your endowment gifts. Many donors like to earmark their funds for a specific use that has interest to them and their family. There are 37 different church funds in the areas of: Christian Education/Discipleship, Mission/Outreach, Music/Worship, Buildings and Grounds, General, Pastoral Care, and CCES Scholarships. Additional descriptions are available for the funds in each of these areas.

What are the accepted payment methods? Like Annual Giving, you can make gifts from many different sources such as checking or savings accounts, by credit card, by gifts of stock, and with IRA distributions. Checks should be made payable to Christ Church Episcopal with “Endowment” in the memo line.