**Remember your church**

One of our most important acts of stewardship is the final distribution of our life’s accumulation. How we distribute our estate speaks volumes about our values and our concerns for our loved ones.

First, we need to have a written estate plan, either a will or a revocable living trust. It has been estimated that over 50% of Americans die without a plan. What does this mean? Without an estate plan, we have no control of how our estate will be distributed. Also, not having an estate plan may cost our estate between 15-40% of its value.

What does having an estate plan reveal about us? First, it says that we care about our loved ones. Second, it means that we have sought to conserve our estate. Third, it provides insight into what is really important in our lives

Bequests to family members tell of our love and concern for their welfare. Bequest to our church affirms our belief in the mission and ministry of our church

As Christians we need to be good stewards of that which God has provided to us. This means having a written estate plan.

A bequest to our church accomplishes several things. It expresses ***confidence*** in the future of our church. It creates a ***lasting legacy***. It encourages present and future ***leadership***. And, most importantly, ***it makes a difference!***

A bequest to your church can be made through your will or trust. This is the simplest method. It can be a certain dollar amount, property or a percentage of your estate.  ***Many tithe their estate.***

There are other options available that provide a current income tax deduction, fixed or variable annuity for life with the remainder going to your church.

If you would like information on making a bequest to your church and the various options, please contact David Battles, CPA at 800-259-6863 or dbattles@okumf.org.