When you make a bequest or life-income gift to your church, it is an expression of faith. It demonstrates not only that you hold its ministry in high esteem, but that you trust that its work will continue in the future. In fact, your trust is what will ensure the future of your church's ministry for years to come.

The size of your planned gift does not matter. All the apples off just one tree would fill 20 boxes each year. What's most important is that your simple act of generosity represents your hope for the future of your church and your faith that its ministry will be secure. When you make a bequest for your church, you are sowing the seeds for future fruit.

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For the free booklet, *Making a Planned Gift*, please complete this form and return it to the church office or contact (planned giving committee member) or the Episcopal Church Foundation, 800-697-2858 or www.episcopalfoundation.org.

NAME_____

ADDRESS _____

CITY_____

STATE_____ ZIP_____

TELEPHONE_____

E-MAIL_____

LET YOUR HOPE SHINE THROUGH

EVEN IF I KNEW THAT TOMORROW THE WORLD WOULD GO TO PIECES, I WOULD STILL PLANT MY APPLE TREE.

—Martin Luther

Sowing seeds for future fruit is an act of hope. Of course, you will plan ahead. You will plant your crop in a friendly climate, tend to it with care, pick your fruit when it is ripe and share your bounty. Still, you cannot anticipate every eventuality. How will you know if there will be drought or frost or flooding rains? How will you know that your fruit will be harvested and not rot on the tree? And what will happen if you are not around to carry out your plans? Will others know what you intended? Will they understand what you thought was most important?

The same is true when it comes to planning how your assets and possessions will be distributed and used after you no longer need them. You will want to know you have left good stewards in charge of your legacy and that they will manage those funds you leave them wisely, spend them judiciously and use them in ways that represent your values.