

ENDOW

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE *Covenant College Foundation*

en•dow verb » 1. to provide with a permanent fund or source of income.

This past year has been incredibly full in the Erickson household. I experienced some medical issues that led to the removal of my gallbladder, I lost my mother unexpectedly, and Greta and I celebrated the weddings of two of our children...then promptly watched our son and his new wife move to Scotland.

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, “The only constant in life is change,” and we have certainly been living that reality. While many of the events in this past year have taken me by surprise, it is reassuring to know that none of them have taken our Heavenly Father by surprise. He knows the number of hairs on my head, and not a sparrow falls to the ground apart from His care (Matthew 10:29-30). Through all the times of uncertainty, pain, loss, and joy, I have been so thankful for God’s faithfulness and provision.

Changes have come to the Covenant College Foundation as well – we are growing! The Foundation’s mission is to strengthen the college’s endowment and to serve the Covenant community



by providing assistance in estate planning and planned giving. Those tasks have kept us busy through the years, and we have realized that in order to continue doing them well, we needed to add staff.

I am pleased to introduce you to David Welsh, our Assistant Director of Estate & Gift Design. David, a Lookout Mountain native

and Covenant MEd graduate, comes to us after a career in teaching and educational leadership (including 15 years as the head of a school in Budapest, Hungary) and most recently after working in development with a local nonprofit. I am excited to have David join Karen Jones and me to round out our team at the Foundation.

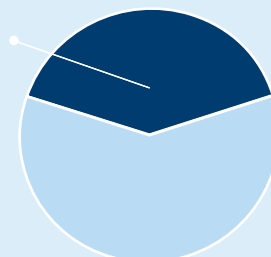
As we come to work each day to serve the Covenant community, we can move forward in faith and boldness, knowing that God goes before us. Amidst a turbulent sea of change, He is our strong and constant anchor.

Marc M. Erickson '92 CFP®, CLU®
Executive Director
Covenant College Foundation

Planned Gifts Play Major Role in Successful Campaign

We recently concluded the successful IMPACT Campaign, raising over \$30 million to grow the college’s endowment and provide needed funds for student scholarships, facilities, and faculty. Estate and Planned Giving comprised over 40% of the total raised and helped us exceed our goal of \$30 million.

\$13,656,167
ESTATE COMMITMENTS



Charitable Gift Annuities Provide Stability and Peace of Mind

by DAVID WELSH

A DECADE AGO, I knew what a Charitable Gift Annuity was, but “CGAs” weren’t really on my radar. Then in 2015, my stepfather passed away, leaving my mother a widow, and I learned firsthand about the benefits of GCAs. My mom and stepdad, Calvin, had lived modestly but comfortably on Lookout Mountain, thanks to his work as a family practice physician.

One of the things that I admire about both of them is that they shared a heart for God’s Kingdom: They participated in mission trips, regularly prayed for missionaries and often hosted them in their home, and financially supported various Christian ministries.

When Calvin passed, it not only left my mom grieving the loss of her husband and partner in ministry, but it also significantly changed her financial situation.

As my brother and I gathered around Mom to help support her, we quickly began to appreciate the foresight and planning that she and Calvin had implemented during his life. In addition to giving to their church and to missions, they had set up several CGAs with their favorite Christian organizations and colleges.

Fidelity Charitable defines a CGA as “a contract between a donor and a charity...As a donor, you make a sizable gift to charity using cash, securities or possibly other assets. In return, you become eligible to take a partial tax deduction for your donation, plus you receive a fixed stream of income from the charity for the rest of your life.”

In my mom’s case, having these CGAs meant that when Calvin died, and his income stream went away, she continued to receive regular checks (quarterly, in her case) from these various Christian organizations. Other than Social Security, these CGA checks have been her primary source of regular income, and they have been a tremendous blessing.

In the first few months of helping Mom adjust to living alone, my brother and I marveled to see these checks come in, and we were so thankful to see firsthand how they provided crucial support for her. Seven years later, this remains an important pillar of Mom’s financial stability. The quarterly amount has never decreased, and she will continue

to receive these regular payments as long as she lives.

Establishing CGAs all those years ago allowed my mom and stepdad to accomplish two goals that were important to them: (1) It allowed them to give generously

to Christian organizations they cared about while they were living (thus they got to see those ministries blessed now by their generosity), and (2) it allowed them to set up a secure stream of income for the rest of their lives (regardless of stock market fluctuations, etc.). An added benefit was that they received a tax deduction in the year they gave the gift to the organization.

It is common for us to hear people say, “I’d like to be able to give more, but I worry about having enough money as I get older.” Charitable intentions and concerns about future income are two powerful motivators that often compete with

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one another, but thankfully, they don't have to be mutually exclusive. A Charitable Gift Annuity could be one effective means of addressing both issues. Timing is another consideration; new, higher rates of return (the highest in 10 years!) were just announced in January 2023, so now could be a good time to explore GCAs.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our staff at the Covenant College Foundation would be happy to help you learn more about establishing a CGA.



David Welsh, MEd '96, grew up on Lookout Mountain. After earning his BA (English) from Davidson College and his MEd (Integrated Curriculum & Instruction) from Covenant, he taught in Chattanooga and in Montgomery, AL. He then served as head of school at the International Christian School of Budapest (Hungary). David and his wife, Jennifer, '91, returned to Chattanooga in 2018. They have three adult children.

Heritage Society Tea

The annual Heritage Society Tea, a treasured part of each homecoming weekend, was held at The Kirk on September 23, 2022. The Heritage Society recognizes those friends of the college who have included Covenant in their estate plans. Most often, estate gifts help build the college's endowment, thus strengthening Covenant for years to come and providing valuable resources for student scholarships, faculty, and facilities.

Each year, a different academic discipline is featured at the tea. This year's event featured the English department. Approximately 35 Heritage Society members enjoyed tea, scones, and desserts while hearing from Associate Professor of English Dr. Robert Earle Barham and two English students, Elysse Carillo '23 and Caleb Kleinmann '24. All three shared about the joy they find in studying literature in a Christian academic setting, and they spoke about the genuine, caring relationships among faculty and students. President Derek Halvorson gave an update on the college and answered questions from Heritage Society members.

