

# PLANNED GIVING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONNECTED CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we move forward with our fundraising for the renovations and new build, Saint James' is likewise thinking beyond this project and into the future. As you may know, the \$2.245 million **CONNECTED Capital Campaign** has a separate, simultaneous Planned Giving goal of \$500,000. These legacy commitments will strengthen the church's endowment and allow generations of parishioners, students, community groups, and visitors to share in the life of the church and to connect with each other in our shared and welcoming facilities. An equally important result of meeting this goal will be Saint James' ability to handle regular site maintenance without the need for additional capital campaigns. By strengthening our endowment now, we can ensure campaigns are a rarity and reserved for new projects.



## *To Do List:*

- 1. Leave*
- 2. A*
- 3. Legacy*

Two hundred years ago our founding parishioners understood that their dreams could only grow from a church set on a solid foundation of support. Legacy donations to the Saint James' Endowment serve to sustain that promise.

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## **An Interview with Parishioner Ninie Laing**

### ***Why don't you start by telling us a little bit about yourself?***

I am Professor Emerita from Sweet Briar College. I taught History of Art there for 30 years. I am also an alumna of Sweet Briar. I received my PhD from Johns Hopkins. I started my education at The Warrenton Branch of the Calvert School (now Highland) which was originally housed at Saint James'.

### ***How did you first hear about/come to Saint James'?***

Although baptized at Christ Church, Alexandria, I am a life-long member of Saint James' as were my parents and my grandparents.

### ***What sets Saint James' apart? How would Fauquier County be different without Saint James'?***

Saint James' has been a leader in the community for most of its existence. Long-time rector Paul Bowden was an active member of the local community as our current rector and his predecessor have been. Numerous members of the congregation have held prominent positions in the community (mayor, councilmen, etc.) as well as serving in many volunteer positions (often quietly and with both financial support and hours of work).

As one of the largest churches in the community, Saint James' has also often served as an appropriate location for funerals and other services for public figures (police, mayors, etc.).

***What are Saint James' biggest strengths? What impresses you most about the church?***

Our sense of community is our biggest strength. This has not always been true, but it is one of the shining characteristics of Saint James' today. The Café is a large part of our connectedness as it draws the two services together, but it is more generally the atmosphere pervasive within the facility (staff, congregation and school). Walking into the building (even on a quiet Friday in July) gives one a sense of welcome and peace.

The church itself is a magnificent structure filled with a quiet, welcoming and supportive feeling ... except on Sunday when it is often more like a family reunion with conversation buzzing around.

The School has been the primary reason for Saint James' growth (at a time when most congregations are shrinking). The hum of activity during the week, the polite and cheery way the kids speak to all and sundry, the joyous and comfortable ways the children join in the church service, the quiet way in which Father Ben incorporates (or simply ignores) sudden interruptions during the service all speak to God's presence in our midst.

***Tell me about a particular program/outreach/mission you have been involved with – or something you know Saint James' does – that has stood out for you.***

I have served in many capacities at Saint James': vestry, Senior Warden, Register, Search Committee (several times), lay reader, chalice bearer, altar guild (member and twice chairman), flower guild, teacher and/or leader for various groups, discernment chair for Seldon's process to seminary, etc., but the one thing I have enjoyed most and currently find most fulfilling spiritually is the altar guild. Working with a partner builds another bond, but working alone is a quiet communion with God.

***Why did you include Saint James' in your Estate Plan?***

In concert with my family, Saint James' has been the centerpiece of my life for years and this is a way to help it continue to be so for future generations.

***What do you hope your gift will help accomplish?***

While it is essential that each generation bears the primary responsibility for the church's financial health, I hope my small gift will enable Saint James' to maintain financial soundness. I remember when the endowment had all been spent, pledges were small, and the budget was dripping with red. We were told at one time that we were close to closing the doors. I don't want that to happen again and if my gift can help secure a solid future for the church, I will be happy.



*Ninie and Mollie*

*How do you feel about your gift?*

I wish it could be larger!

*Would you encourage others to include Saint James' in their estate plans?*

Yes, especially for individuals like me who have a limited income. My gift enables me to receive the financial benefit during my life, but at my death the church will receive the capital.

**THANK YOU, NINIE, FOR SHARING YOUR STORY AND FOR KEEPING US  
CONNECTED!**

**Is Saint James' already in your will, trust, or other estate plans? THANK YOU!**

Please contact Laura Cline in the Business Office and she will add your name to the ARBOR SOCIETY. We will also count your gift towards our \$500,000 planned giving goal. **Your gift may remain anonymous from public recognition if you like, but an internal record of the gift is key to planning for the future of Saint James'.** Contact Laura Cline, Parish Accountant, at 540-347-4342 or email Laura at [accountant@saintjameswarrenton.org](mailto:accountant@saintjameswarrenton.org).

**Don't have a will or a trust? You are not alone!**

Now is a great time to start planning and we hope you will consider including Saint James' in your estate plans. For information on how to connect with the Endowment Committee and take advantage of its helpful information and useful resources, contact the Parish Office at 540-347-4342 or email our Parish Administrator, Nancy Kincheloe, at [nancy@saintjameswarrenton.org](mailto:nancy@saintjameswarrenton.org).