

## **Continuing the Ministries of our Church Through Their Estates *The Generosity of Virginia and Fred Henker***

Virginia and Fred Henker joined our church in 1969, soon after the congregation moved from downtown to Pleasant Valley. They both served as elders, with Fred also serving as a deacon. Each had a passion and dedication to their faith, especially to Christian Education.

Not long after joining, they were asked by the pastors to recruit and start a new Sunday school class for members not already attending Sunday school. Fred taught the class, named the Friendship Bible Class, for 25 years, which was renamed the Henker Friendship Class in his honor.

Virginia edited a book on biblical history and was also active in Presbyterian Women, studying the scriptures in fellowship and serving those in need.



Longtime friend and Sunday School member, Dickson Flake remembered “Fred and Virginia Henker deserve to be honored by Second Church perhaps as much as any other member in its history. Their work for the Friendship Bible Class included over thirty years of organization, even arranging the class seating and publishing notices. Fred and Virginia not only founded the class - they adopted it. If I were writing criteria for sainthood, it would be based upon their service without the expectation of any acknowledgement.”

Sunday School member, Carol William remembered, “After the passing of Fred Henker, his beloved wife Virginia and Dickson Flake asked me to participate in the class founded by them many years earlier. Members of the class were fine Bible scholars and willing to share their faith experiences--making the Sunday School sessions meaningful for all who attended. Although the name of the class has changed, I shall always refer to it as the 'Henker Class' and remember Fred and Virginia as pillars of our church. Their memory and contributions to our faith journey remain with us all.”

Daughter, Gloria Henker Rotan, recently said, “I know how much my parents considered their church as their family. My parents loved being a part of Second Presbyterian for over 40 years. They made forever friendships and served in several capacities. The Second Presbyterian family was there in turn for my parents, especially during the illness and passing of my father. Their church has a special place in my heart, because my parents gave me in marriage there. I know my father was humbled and honored when their Sunday School class was named the Henker Friendship Class. My Mother stayed an active member of the class after his death until her own health made it better for her to move near me in Tallahassee. But she wanted her membership to stay with her own church family in Little Rock, and she enjoyed the newsletters and sermons sent to her. My parents strongly believed in supporting the mission and good works of their Second Presbyterian family. I am very proud of their legacy.”

Thanks be to God for the planning and generosity of Virginia and Fred Henker. Their planned gift supports the ministries of their beloved church to spread the love of Christ for many years after their lives on earth.