

Giving Notes

End-of-the-Year Giving

You are able to make a tax deductible gift to Trinity Hills Baptist Church **before** the end of December to use the deduction during the tax year. Your gift must be either received or mailed before January 1. And you must receive acknowledgement of your gifts from the church **before** submitting your income tax return to IRS.

Trinity Hills Baptist Church cannot back-date gifts.

Trinity Hills Baptist Church will prepare an annual contribution acknowledgement letter summarizing all your cash gifts for the calendar year. We will make this available for you to pick up in January or mail it to you **before** February 1.

From IRS Publication 526:

Generally, you can deduct your contributions of money or property that you make to, or for the use of, a qualified organization. A gift or contribution is “for the use of” a qualified organization when it is held in a legally enforceable trust for the qualified organization or in a similar legal arrangement. . . . The contributions must be made to a qualified organization and not set aside for use by a specific person. (Trinity Hills Baptist Church is qualified) . . . If you receive a benefit as a result of making a contribution to a qualified organization, you can deduct only the amount of your contribution that is more than the value of the benefit you receive.

A qualified organization must give you a written statement if you make a payment

to it that is more than \$75 and is partly a contribution and partly for goods or services. . . . Although you cannot deduct the value of your services given to a qualified organization, you may be able to deduct some amounts you pay in giving services to a qualified organization. The amounts must be:

- *Unreimbursed,*
- *Directly connected with the services,*
- *Expenses you had only because of the services you gave, and*
- *Not personal, living, or family expenses.*

You cannot deduct the value of your time or services . . . personal, living, or family expenses.

If you contribute property to a qualified organization, the amount of your charitable contribution is generally the fair market value of the property at the time of the contribution. . . . Fair market value is the price at which property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller, neither having to buy or sell, and both having reasonable knowledge of all the relevant facts.

You must keep records to prove the amount of the contributions you make during the year. The kind of records you must keep depends on the amount of your contributions and whether they are:

- *Cash contributions,*
- *Noncash contributions, or*
- *Out-of-pocket expenses when donating your services.*

An organization generally must give you a written statement if it receives a payment from you that is more than \$75 and is partly a contribution and partly for goods or services. . . You can claim a deduction for a contribution of \$250 or more only if you have an acknowledgment of your contribution from the qualified organization or certain payroll deduction records. . . A letter or other written communication from the charitable organization acknowledging receipt of the contribution and containing the information . . . will serve as a receipt.