

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Stewardship

1. Why should I give to the church?

Giving is an expression of our Christian commitment. Jesus spoke as much about our use of money as any other topic. As Christians, we give to express our gratitude and to support the work of Christ's church.

2. How much should I give?

Our church encourages tithing or giving ten percent of all that we receive. This practice grows out of Scripture where God encouraged his people to give a tenth of all they received from him. The tithe was meant to represent all their possessions and remind them that all they had was a gift from God.

3. Is giving ten percent of my income really possible?

Setting aside ten percent of our income is a challenge. It may require rearranging our priorities or even making sacrifices. And yet most people find that a tithe is an achievable goal, and becomes a source of great satisfaction and joy.

4. Do all Christians tithe?

No. Surveys show that the average church member gives between 2% and 5% of their income. But we are not an average church, and we do not want to be average in our giving.

5. Does all my tithe have to go to the church?

Some Christians believe that the entire tithe should go to the church, and support for other charitable causes should be above and beyond the tithe. Other Christians think that the tithe may include both support for the church and for other Christian ministries such as Habitat for Humanity or Good Shepherd Ministries. Still others believe that all charitable giving can be included in a tithe.

6. Do I have to give every week?

Some members find that a weekly gift is a meaningful expression of worship. Most members give monthly, either in the offering plate or by mail. Some members pay their yearly pledge in one lump sum, either at the beginning or at the end of the year. Some members also use gifts of appreciated stock to make their pledge. Special envelopes can be used for confidentiality and to help the church keep track of your giving for your year end statement.

7. Why should I pledge?

Making an annual pledge serves two purposes. It gives us structure in our giving, encouraging us to be systematic and intentional. It also allows the church to plan a realistic budget and to prioritize expenses.

8. What if I can't make my pledge.

A pledge is not binding. It is an expression of our intention. If our financial situation changes, for the worse or for the better, our giving may also need to change.

9. Where does my money go?

The church office provides a brochure called "Where Does Our Money Go?" which gives a summary of how gifts to the church are used. These brochures are available in the church office. The church office can provide a line item budget with details of how all money given is spent.