

CHURCH GIVING

People often ask us about giving to church, so we thought that we ought to provide some principles to guide your prayers and thinking on giving, especially giving to church. A helpful passage of scripture to read on this area is 2 Corinthians 8:1-13.

1. ***Give yourself to the Lord first.*** Our greatest prayer for you (and all people) is that you might come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and commit yourself to serving him with your life. When you do this everything changes as you seek to follow Christ and be a part of his church just as other new Christians did in the early church (2 Corinthians 8:5). At Campbelltown Anglican our vision is to be a growing Christian community devoted to maturing in Jesus for the Glory of God. We don't want to see you just give yourself to the Lord but also grow up in him as part of a church community for his glory. If you have any questions about what knowing Jesus Christ means please speak with one of our ministers.
2. ***Giving flows out of a spirit of thankfulness.*** In 2 Corinthians 8:9 Paul writes: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." Christ died so that we may live - this is grace, and this grace motivates Christians to give thankfully so that others may come to know Jesus too as we all grow up in Christ. We don't give out of obligation or demand, but because Christ first gave himself for us. We all give, no matter how much we earn, because we are all thankful for Christ's work in us.
3. ***Giving is cheerful, joyous, yet sacrificial.*** Paul described the Macedonian Christians as being "in the midst of severe trial" and in "extreme poverty" yet they had "overflowing joy" and "rich generosity" (2 Corinthians 8:2). How could they be in dire straits financially yet be so generous in giving? They saw giving as a privilege to serve the Lord's people so they may keep growing as Christians (2 Corinthians 8:4). They saw their giving as an expression of their partnership with the work of the church to see others come to know Jesus.
4. ***Giving flows out of a spirit of generosity.*** There is 'giving' and there is giving. Giving \$2 a week to church when we spend \$20 a week on coffee is indeed giving, but is that truly "giving"? The Macedonian church gave an amount "beyond their ability" (see 2 Corinthians 8:1-4). This means that the amount they gave was not just money that they had left over after they met all their household expenses; it was an amount that caused them to forego some things in life for the sake of the gospel. We give generously to what matters most.
5. ***I understand that I need to be generous for all the above reasons, but why should church be the beneficiary of our giving?*** There is no more important work in the world than sharing the Good News of Jesus and helping Christians grow. This work takes place in the local church family more than anywhere else and God has given the church a special role to play in His plan of salvation. As partners with the church and those served by the church, we should first support the work of the local church (Galatians 6:6). Lights need to be turned on, resources need to be available and staff need to be paid for the work of the church to advance for the glory of God.
6. ***What sources of income does the church have to live out its vision?*** Most of the services and activities of our church are funded by the giving of church members. Our church has some income that comes from property that allows us to further pursue our vision but neither the government nor the institutional Anglican church provide us with any funding. Local church ministry is supported by local

people so other local people can come to know Jesus. Just imagine what we could achieve together for the glory of God if we all gave generously and thankfully!

What should you do now?

1. Pray. Read back over 2 Corinthians 8:1-13 and pray that God would enable you to be a cheerful and thankful giver in response to his kindness and grace.

2. Think about your income and financial situation. Spend time looking at what you earn and what you spend and how you spend it. Give consideration to the needs of your own family and the commitments you have. Perhaps some of this might need to change in light of your commitment to Jesus. What might you forego to see the Gospel go forward?

3. Start Giving. Just getting started is important no matter how much you earn or how old you are. Many people ask us how much they should give. A tenth of our income is a good starting point, but it should only be a starting point for considering how generous we can be. It is not a legalistic figure that we must obey. In some circumstances people will give less. If you have fewer commitments (no relatives you support financially, paid off your mortgage, or live rent-free) there may be opportunity to give beyond the 10% mark.

The table below is a tool to help you figure out how much you should give in light of the principles above.

		Giving amount per week				
		6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
Net weekly income	\$ 200	\$ 12	\$ 16	\$ 20	\$ 24	\$ 30
	\$ 400	\$ 24	\$ 32	\$ 40	\$ 48	\$ 60
	\$ 600	\$ 36	\$ 48	\$ 60	\$ 72	\$ 90
	\$ 800	\$ 48	\$ 64	\$ 80	\$ 96	\$ 120
	\$ 1,000	\$ 60	\$ 80	\$ 100	\$ 120	\$ 150
	\$ 1,200	\$ 72	\$ 96	\$ 120	\$ 144	\$ 180
	\$ 1,400	\$ 84	\$ 112	\$ 140	\$ 168	\$ 210
	\$ 1,600	\$ 96	\$ 128	\$ 160	\$ 192	\$ 240
	\$ 1,800	\$ 108	\$ 144	\$ 180	\$ 216	\$ 270
	\$ 2,000	\$ 120	\$ 160	\$ 200	\$ 240	\$ 300
	\$ 2,500	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 375
\$ 3,000	\$ 180	\$ 240	\$ 300	\$ 360	\$ 450	

How do I give?

We encourage our members to give electronically. This reduces the risk of cash handling errors and the amount of administration work needed. The church's banking details are:

BSB: 062-517
Acct Number: 28044387
Acct Name: St. Peter's Anglican Church Campbelltown

Cash giving is available at all our services.

If you have any detailed questions about our budget or finances, how to give or to think about giving, please contact Arya Darmaputra our Honorary Treasurer (treasurer@campbelltownanglican.org).