

Frequently Asked Stewardship Questions

How should I consider giving?

Seriously, giving is an act of faith. We believe giving is asked by God to help us participate with Christ. Since God gives us all we have we encourage percentage giving: giving back a part of the whole. Tithing is giving 10%. Some people simply start giving at 10%. Some people grow towards it.

Is percentage giving from net or gross?

You decide. Many people are embarrassed by this question, but it is important. In the Biblical times giving supported many social programs which our taxes now support. On the other hand, giving to the Lord is about a generous, joyful heart, trusting in God.

If I give my time and talent, does that replace financial giving?

No. We are called to participate with all of our lives, and our finances are a central piece of them. So much of what we do with our time and talent is "stored" in our money. Money is "coined self." Giving it is a way of giving ourselves.

Do I have to fill out a Giving Plan card?

No, but we would like you to.

- It gives each of us an opportunity to think responsibly about our stewardship.
- It sets a goal for our giving. This helps discipline us and challenges us to our most faithful.
- It does make the budget planning of St. Stephen's much easier.

Is there a spiritual element to giving?

Absolutely! Jesus said, "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:20) Giving really boils down to an expression of faith.