

# GIVING

AT FOREST BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH



## **The Why**

We challenge you to think differently about giving



## **The How**

Find out the many ways in which you can give!

[WWW.FORESTBROOK.CA](http://WWW.FORESTBROOK.CA)

# THE "WHY?"

## AN ENCOURAGEMENT

**Your initial reaction to the idea of giving to the church might be a bit negative - like thinking it is an obligation, something you have to do. We get that. But we'd also like to challenge you to think about it a bit differently too.**

- Thinking about how we spend
- our money is something we do
- all the time. It's not strange or
- abnormal. All of us try to figure
- out how to balance our
- spending with our incomes,
- whether we think that's a little
- or a lot. We try to make good
- financial decisions and to plan
- for the future. We're careful to
- save for our expected needs
- (like an education or a home
- down payment), pay down
- our
- debt as quickly as we can, and
- invest for the future for
- ourselves and our families.
- But in all of this we are the
- central focus of our money
- management. Giving changes
- that focus.
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In giving, we are able to be more like Jesus. God is the Great Giver. He gives us everything we have. He gives us what we need to prosper and flourish (Zechariah 10:1). Even our ability to generate income and wealth comes from him (Deuteronomy 8:10-18). And God is a joyful giver! Even to the point of giving Jesus to be our Saviour (John 3:16; John 10:17-18).

Anytime we give, we are intentionally shifting the focus from ourselves - our needs, our desires - to meeting the needs of others. Whether it is giving charitably to the less fortunate, or giving to a child, or giving to a good cause - we are purposefully choosing not to do something for ourselves, but instead do something for others.

And God likes that! More than that - God loves it when we can do that cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7)! When we learn to be like God in our giving, we learn to give happily, generously and without an expectation of something in return. In this way we give graciously, and so become imitators of Christ!

# THE "WHY?"

## CONTINUED

So rather than think of giving as a duty or obligation, people of faith think of it as a privilege and an opportunity.

The amount we give is not the point. Why we give means everything! One of the best guidelines on giving in Scripture is found in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ...

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

So we determine in our hearts what we will give. It's not just a matter of giving from our left-overs. It may be that something is so important or meaningful to us that we actually prefer to give to that, rather than to do something for ourselves. Giving is a choice that we make. It's not just based upon what we have available - it's based upon what's important to us.

So we encourage you to think about giving biblically! Think of it as one of the most practical ways that we get to be like Jesus. Think of all the good we are providing for others when we give. Think of it as a blessing - not just for others, but for ourselves. As the Apostle Paul said in Ephesus,

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

**May you, as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, be truly blessed in your giving! And may your giving be a blessing to others!**

# THE "HOW?"

## PRACTICAL HELP

**We are blessed to receive the generous tithes and offerings of people who choose to support the ministries and work of our church. All donations are eligible for a charity tax receipt and receipts are distributed annually at the end of January.**

### **Here are the ways you can give:**

#### **1. Via Offering Envelope**

Each year we provide our regular donors with a numbered box set of offering envelopes. The number assigned to each box is one of the main ways we keep track of people's donations for receipt purposes. Even if you don't use these envelopes each week, you will need an assigned number for other ways of giving as well. To request a set of envelopes, please contact the church office or Rachel Kay (extension 106).

#### **2. Via PAR (Pre-authorized remittance)**

You can arrange for a monthly debit from your bank account, in whatever amount you choose, by signing up for PAR. This service is provided for us by an outside organization and there is a \$0.50 charge to us for each monthly donation. It's an inexpensive way to ensure your giving happens regularly, even when you are away for vacation or to spend the winter in some exotic place like Florida! To register for PAR, please ask for a PAR form from the church office. Please note that you'll need a Forest Brook Offering Envelope number for Par as well.

# THE "HOW?"

## PRACTICAL HELP

### 3. Via on-line giving

You can donate whenever you want by going to our website ([www.forestbrook.ca](http://www.forestbrook.ca)). We are registered with CanadaHelps, a national organization that facilitates giving for many charities in Canada. Simply click on the "donate now" button you see on the website and you are automatically redirected to our account on the CanadaHelps website.

Complete your personal information and voila - you've made your donation! You can also set it up to make a monthly donation via your credit card this way if you wish. While you will receive a charitable receipt for the full amount of your donation, 3.5% of each donation goes to CanadaHelps for this service, meaning the church will receive 96.5%.

### 4. Via Electronic Bank Transfer

You can do an e-transfer directly into Forest Brook's General Fund from your own bank account. Forest Brook's transfer email is [finance@forestbrook.ca](mailto:finance@forestbrook.ca). Remember that when you do this your regular bank fees for e-transfers will apply.

### 5. Via transfer of Securities

Forest Brook has a registered Securities account and can receive transfers of Canadian Controlled Corporation Shares. We do not hold shares, but redeem them on the same day that they are received and a charitable receipt is issued for the amount of the redemption. To transfer shares to Forest Brook please contact the church office and request a Securities Transfer Form.

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# TYPES OF DONATIONS

**Normally, all donations are deposited into our General Fund, which is used to cover the expenses of practically everything the church is involved with. Sometimes donors wish to make a donation specifically donated to a particular need or cause within the purview of our ministries. Forest Brook does have designated funds for this purpose.**

Currently these are:

- Capital Building Projects
- Benevolence Fund
- Refugee Sponsorship Fund

Donations directed to other causes need to be approved by the church leadership, but in the past these have included specific missions trips (i.e. Jamaica, Honduras, etc.), Summer Day Camp, and special projects. Such donations are eligible for charity receipts as long as the gift is going to a project which has been approved by the church leadership beforehand. If you have any questions about directing a donation toward a specific need or program in the church, please speak to Kevin Armstrong or Duncan Williams (Treasurer) directly.

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