

***Why should I give?***

Christian stewardship is set in the context of God’s generosity to us, Christ’s lordship over all aspects of our life, and our complete dependence on God.

We give in gratitude because God has given so much to us; we give as part of our commitment to following Christ; and we give to be partners with God in his work in the world.

SEE ALSO : 1 Corinthians 16:1 – 2, 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 11

***How much should I give?***

In the Old Testament, God instructed the Jews to set aside one tenth (“tithe”) of their income for him: to support the Levites, to provide for the poor, and to offer in praise and worship to God. In the New Testament, we recognize that the whole of our lives belongs to God, and we use the tithe as a starting point for Christian stewardship, not as a goal. God challenges us to give both generously and cheerfully—because our generosity to others always flows out of God’s generosity to us.

SEE ALSO : Mark 12:41 – 44, 1 Timothy 6:17 – 19

***What does the church’s General Fund support?***

The General Fund supports the full range of the church’s ministries, in Escalon and around the world. The General Fund also supports our local congregation—supporting children and families, challenging youth and college students with the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, providing for corporate worship, and training and equipping us for Christian discipleship.

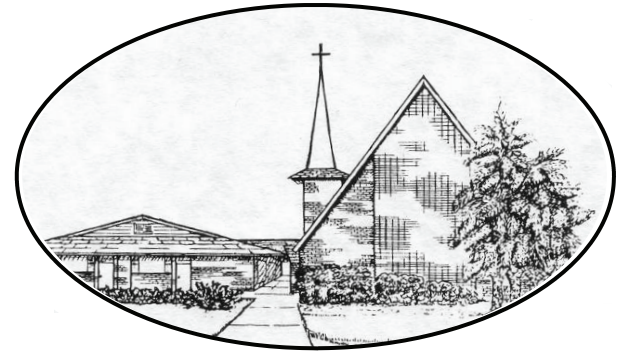
***Should I give only to the General Fund or to other ministries also?***

If Escalon Presbyterian is your church home, we believe you should give your tithe first and primarily to the church’s work through the General Fund. Many people also support other ministries, both Christian and secular, in and out of the church, above and beyond their support of the General Fund.

***Why should I fill out a Pledge Card?***

Completing a Pledge Card can be a statement of faith—a chance to make a tangible commitment to faithful financial stewardship. It provides an opportunity to look ahead and plan your financial stewardship thoughtfully and prayerfully.

# Stewardship 2008



*“For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.”*

*Matthew 6:21*

## OUR VISION

---

*In response to God's great love and for God's glory,  
our vision is to SEEK to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ .*

*To SERVE in mission locally and around the world.*

*SUPPORT personal growth through learning, teaching & sharing  
God's word and to SUSTAIN a Christ-centered fellowship  
among our members, friends and community.*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Stewardship is the act of responsibly “stewarding” all that the Lord has graciously given to us. An early and basic definition of Christian stewardship is: “Christian stewardship is a way of life in which we regard ourselves and all that we have as a trust from God to be used in his service for what he has done for us in Jesus Christ.”

Stewardship, therefore, is a heavy responsibility—for we have been entrusted with so much. Yet it is also a joy, for in the act of stewarding we are responding to a holy God who has called us to participate in his work and mission in the world.

Each year at this time we invite you into a season of prayerful self-examination: where and how are you using the resources God has given you as a faithful, risk taking steward? We are once again encouraging you to ask God to lead you as you think about your giving to Escalon Presbyterian for the coming year.

### ITS MORE THAN NUMBERS

The reason we ask you to do this each year is not because of the budget or the ministry of Escalon Presbyterian, or its programs and plans. We think these are faithful and appropriate, leading us into deeper rootedness in Christ and into more faithful stewardship responsibility. But they are not the primary benchmarks that motivate or measure our stewardship. Our giving is meant to flow from our response to the extraordinary and sacrificial heart of God, both towards us and towards the world.

### PRAY

So I ask you to set aside some time during this season, perhaps daily or weekly, to prayerfully consider the love of God in Jesus Christ towards you and the response God may be asking you to make in stewardship of your time, talents, and money in the coming year.

### WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

God does not want our money per se. God wants our hearts. Jesus was no fool when he said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” As people of faith it is imperative therefore that we ask: Where is our treasure? That’s where our heart probably is too.

### COMMIT TO A PLEDGE

Please fill out a pledge card and put it in the offering plate in the coming weeks (or mail to the church office), as a commitment of your treasure, rejoicing that there your heart will be as well. Many of us sense that God is moving in our congregation in some fresh and wonderful ways. Together we will offer what has been given in trust for the purposes God desires here at Escalon Presbyterian Church.

Joyfully in Christ,



Pastor Troy Onsager  
Senior Pastor

## STEWARDSHIP 2008

---

November 11: **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**

*This Sunday is set aside in the PC-USA calendar to discuss matters of Stewardship commitment. Please pray about you or your families commitment to Escalon Presbyterian Church for 2008 and fill out a pledge card.*

*These can be placed in the offering plate within the next few weeks.*

*Please See the Frequently Asked Questions on the back.*