

***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.

# New Consecration Sunday

Fall 2008



*Remembering the words  
the Lord Jesus himself said:  
'It is more blessed to give  
than to receive.'*

*Acts 20:35*

**ESCALON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## OUR VISION

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*In response to God's great love and for His glory, we:*

- SEEK** to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ.  
**SERVE** in mission locally and around the world.  
**SUPPORT** growth through learning, teaching  
& sharing God's word.  
**SUSTAIN** a Christ-centered fellowship.

### DEAR FRIENDS,

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. Following worship we will celebrate together as a church at a catered luncheon donated by a few of our members.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

In Christ,

EPC Finance Ministry Team,  
EPC Session & Pastor Troy Onsager

## STEWARDSHIP 2009

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September 28: **New Consecration Sunday**

*This Sunday is set aside by our church to discuss matters of Stewardship commitment. Please pray about you or your family's commitment to Escalon Presbyterian Church. We will present our commitment cards individually during the worship service. For more information about stewardship, see the Frequently Asked Questions on the back.*