

Where Should I Give?

St. John's believe that scripture teaches the tithe (Matt. 23:23) and that always as Christians our first response should be to the local church (Ezek. 44:30). Our first gifts should be made to the general fund. Other gifts should be over and above the tithe. Like offerings made in the Old Testament, giving to Missions, the ACC, capital campaigns, etc. represent a way that we can make an "over and above" gift (Ex. 35:5). But remember - all giving should not be from compulsion, but done cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

From Larry Burkett's The Word on Finances:

Sometimes it's difficult to separate all the levels of giving taught in God's Word. There are three basic levels of giving: (1) the tithe -- this is the minimum of one-tenth; (2) the offering -- this is above the tithe, given to meet specific needs; and (3) sacrificial giving -- this often means giving up things we want because we see that others have greater needs.

An offering (or a gift to Missions, the ACC, capital campaigns, etc.) is the second level of giving. After you've given your tithe and God brings someone to your attention who has a legitimate need - - perhaps a missionary who needs support or a family who doesn't have food or clothing for their children -- at this point you give your offering. God never intended for everyone to give the same amount or to the same person or organization, but He wants us all to give bountifully and cheerfully.

At St. John's, all undesignated gifts (funds just placed in the offering plate without designation) go to the general fund. The congregation approves an annual budget as to how those funds will be used. Giving your tithe to the general fund is consistent with the Word of God and it allows the church as a body to determine the best use of those funds.

The undesignated gifts to the general fund can be used any way that the congregation decides. Typically at St. John's, those undesignated gifts have been used for operating costs and staff of the church. Conducting separate building fund campaigns is the way St. John's has typically paid for major capital projects, repairs and construction projects.

For more information on giving, please contact [Pastor Hower](#) at 636-394-4100 x 800.