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## Giving FAQ's

### Why should I give?

Giving is an important part of our relationship with God. When we commit our lives to Him, we commit all of it – our heart, time, talents, abilities, spiritual gifts, influence, finances and possessions. In John 3:16 Jesus said *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* God set the example – He gave first, He gave the best and now He gives us the opportunity to respond to Him.

God calls us to be faithful stewards of all that He has given us. A steward is one who manages something that belongs to another. We recognize that God owns everything -*“the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it,”* Psalm 24:1. God graciously gives us all things and it is our responsibility to use it wisely and for good. As we prove ourselves faithful in small things, He will give us more to steward.

### Can my gift make a difference?

Absolutely! Every gift matters! The world is different today because of individuals giving faithfully and generously. Every gift matters and can be used to change lives. Nothing significant in this world will happen without someone sacrificing something.

God also uses giving as a way to grow us spiritually. Just as a small child can grow from taking one or two unsteady steps to running a marathon – so God calls us to grow in our giving. In the book of Malachi Chapter 3 God challenges His people to bring their gifts and in doing so to test Him to see if He will not pour out a blessing to them. God owns everything – He didn’t need their gifts, but He wanted them to see that He is can be trusted. Isn’t our greatest fear in giving generously that we won’t have enough for ourselves? God says not to worry – He has us covered.

### What does it mean to tithe?

The word tithe means a tenth. In the Old Testament Abraham was the first to give a tithe (or tenth) of what he had acquired back to God. There was no law at that time telling Abraham to do this – he did it because he loved God and wanted to give back to Him.

The amount of the gift was not what was important to God; it was Abraham’s heart that mattered. He willingly and gratefully gave back to God from the blessings that he was given.

The practice of giving is an important discipline in our lives. It is too easy for us to drift from being stewards to being owners. Consistently giving back to God reminds us that it is all from Him and that we are submitting ourselves under His direction and leadership.

## **What are offerings?**

Tithing is a good place to start with giving, but you may be able to give more. We all are presented with opportunities to give financially to many good causes and we would encourage everyone to do so. But we encourage that giving to these causes be above and beyond your regular giving to your local church.

## **How are my donations to Christ The Rock used?**

All the general tithe funds given are used to cover the operating expenses for the church. These funds cover the day-to-day costs for everything from ministry programs, staff, missions, and to building operating expenses.

## **Who holds the church accountable for how it manages money?**

We are committed to ensuring that we handle the gifts that you sacrificially give to CTR with integrity and to honor God. We have a Stewardship Team that is made up of individuals with financial and business background that reviews the financial statements on a monthly basis. We also have established internal controls to ensure that funds are handled properly and with accountability. We also have an outside independent certified public accounting firm perform a financial audit review of our books on a yearly basis.

## **How do I get a copy of my contribution statement?**

In January we print contribution statements for all those that give financially to the church. To save on postage costs we have them available in the lobby for you to pick up (after two weekends we mail those that were not picked up).

If you would like instant access to your statement you can create an online account with MYCTR. Creating a MYCTR account also gives you access to make donations to the church and to register for classes and events. When creating a new MYCTR account it may take 2-3 business days for you to access your information.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can request that a current statement be mailed to you. Contact the Accounting Department at the church office at 920.730.8383.

## **What is the deadline for annual contributions?**

Cash donations must be postmarked by December 31 to be included in your giving statement for the year. Online donations must be initiated by December 31.

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If you have a question that was not covered in this FAQ's document, please contact the Accounting Team at the church office either by phone at 920.730.8383 or by email at [mail@christtherock.org](mailto:mail@christtherock.org)