



*By
Prayer*

*New Life
Community Church
Guide to Giving
2007*

February 2007

The *Guide to Giving* you now hold in your hands is one of the most significant resources our church distributes to its members and worshiping family each year. As you read through its pages you will not only be provided with a working overview of our church's ministry—you will be supplied with biblical references and other tools to better assist you with prayerfully considering how you can financially support our church's ministry.

I humbly encourage you to engage its contents. Use it as an instrument for your prayer and devotion time. Seek God, face-to-face, and ask Him, "Lord God, you have blessed me in so many ways—what must I do to be a blessing to you through my local church?" Help me to give as freely as I receive. Amen."

Thank you for your continued generous support as we together respond to God's great commission to reach the ends of the earth for Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara
Senior Pastor

INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE & MINISTRY

Every dollar you give to New Life Community Church is an investment in God's work - an investment in people and ministry. The potential for influencing our community for Christ is great. But we need your help! As a church we rely on the generous giving of members and non-members alike to fund our ministries. Here are some of the programs and ministry-related expenses your contributions help support.

Children & Youth Ministries

NLCC provides effective ministry and care to our children and young adults under the direction of a full-time Youth Pastor, nursery staff and volunteers. **Your gift makes all of these programs and activities possible:**

- Sunday school
- Vacation Bible School
- Tiny Tots, children's, youth programs
- Nurseries
- Mission trips
- Confirmation training
- Drive-through nativity
- Summer programs, retreats & camps

Adult Ministries

For adults, leading the faithful in a closer walk with God and gathering new souls for Christ is the focus of our Senior Pastor and volunteer lay leaders. **Your generosity helps provide the programs for the ministry needs of hundreds of adults.**

- Adult Sunday school
- Alpha (community outreach)
- Evangelism opportunities
- Membership care
- Three weekly worship services
- Healing ministry
- Prayer ministry and soaking prayer
- Visitation ministry
- Pastoral care
- Women's ministry
- Men's ministry
- Retreats
- Revivals
- Counseling ministries
- Marriage ministry
- Home Group Bible studies

Music & Worship Ministries

Praise and worship is not only a key component of all of our worship services at NLCC but it also acknowledges that our focus is not on ourselves but on God. **Your support helps provide music and worship for more than 150 services each year.**

- “Voices of Joy” choir
- Instrumental ensembles
- Drama
- Sacred dance
- Praise team ministry
- Special Christmas & Easter programs
- Sound & graphics ministries

Missions & Ministries Beyond Our Walls

Our church is a generous church! As you have been generous so has your church. In the same way that your giving contributes to the ministries of NLCC, your church also contributes to ministries outside our walls. Your gift not only touches those in our church, but also those in our local community and around the world. **NLCC has always financially supported individual missionaries as well as United Methodist missions and programs and local ministries.**

- **Individual Missions & Missionaries**
Campus Crusade for Christ, Good News, Intersity Christian Fellowship, Cambodian Ministries, Latin American Missions, OMF, Navigators, Wycliffe Bible Translators, SIM.
- **Local Ministries**
Hopeline, Green Chimneys and Habitat for Humanity.
- **Supported through our Apportionments**
World Service, Minister Education Fund, Black College Fund, Mission Priority, Africa University Fund & Ministerial Benefits.

Ministry Facilities & Support

Keeping the lights on and the water running might not be the most exciting use of funds, but it is necessary for the day-to-day functioning of our church. **Your contributions make it possible to have and maintain our properties and provide for the administrative functions of our church. This includes:**

- Property mortgages (*church building & parsonage*)
- Secretary, bookkeeper, & maintenance person
- Insurance, property and building maintenance
- Utilities, office supplies and equipment maintenance
- Bulletins, newsletter preparation & mailing

*“God’s
work done
in God’s
way will
never lack
God’s
supply.”*

*Hudson
Taylor,
19th
century
English
missionary
to China*

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

Many people seek to base their giving on what the "average" household gives. However defining the "average" household at New Life Community Church is not easy. We have young singles, retirees, newlyweds, single parents and two-parent families. We have those with limited incomes and those with substantial incomes.

Giving amounts range from children who give 25 cents per week to those who give hundreds of dollars per week. More and more members practice the biblical standard of tithing, in which one commits the first tenth of one's income to the Lord

Perhaps it's best to base your giving not on what the average household gives, but on what **you** should give. Here are a few principles to help you as you consider your decision.

Tithing

The Bible teaches us the concept of tithing. To tithe is to give one-tenth of your earnings. The Bible also teaches that this should be the "first fruits" or the first tenth of what we earn.

As Randy Alcorn puts it, "I view the tithe of 10% as I view a child's first steps. His first steps are not his last, neither are they his best, but they are a fine beginning. So is the tithe. Tithing is for many the first toddler's step of stewardship. It is the training wheels on the bicycle of true giving."

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD."

*Leviticus
27:30*

Randy Alcorn, Eternal Perspective Ministries,
2229 E. Burnside #23, Gresham, OR 97030,
503-663-6481, www.epm.org

Commitment to Christ

Ultimately, your commitment should be a reflection of both your income and your desire to live as a committed disciple of Jesus Christ. Remember that in the end all that we have; our families, our health and our possessions are gifts from God. He owns it all, not just 10%, but 100%!

The importance that the Bible places on this concept is seen in the fact that fifteen percent of everything Jesus said related to money and possessions. Our Lord made more reference to money and possessions than to either prayer or faith. He spoke about money and possessions more than heaven and hell combined. Does this sound like Jesus believed that this was an important topic? I would say so! In the end it is all about the attitude of our heart before the Lord. As Jesus says in Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

GUIDE TO TITHING

The following table illustrates how tithing your income translates into your weekly or monthly gifts to the church and how it adds up over the course of the year.

| <u>Income</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Week</u> | <u>Month</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|---------------|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| \$10,000 | 10% | \$19 | \$83 | \$1,000 |
| \$25,000 | 10% | \$48 | \$208 | \$2,500 |
| \$35,000 | 10% | \$68 | \$292 | \$3,500 |
| \$50,000 | 10% | \$96 | \$416 | \$5,000 |
| \$75,000 | 10% | \$144 | \$624 | \$7,500 |
| \$100,000 | 10% | \$192 | \$833 | \$10,000 |
| \$125,000 | 10% | \$240 | \$1,042 | \$12,500 |
| \$150,000 | 10% | \$288 | \$1,250 | \$15,000 |
| \$200,000 | 10% | \$385 | \$1,667 | \$20,000 |

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

*Matthew
23:23*

IN WHAT WAYS CAN I GIVE?

Weekly Offering Envelopes

Some members find giving more convenient by using offering envelopes. Please contact the church office if you would like to request a box.

E-Giving/E-Tithing

No need to write a check or dig around in your wallet before church. We now accept electronic fund transfers from any on-line banking account.

Matching Gifts

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs to encourage employees to support their favorite charitable organizations. Most companies match dollar for dollar, and some will double or triple match donors' gifts. If your gift is eligible, simply request a matching gift form from your employer and send it completed and signed to our office.

Gifts of Stock or Securities

Stocks and other securities are a welcome gift. The full fair market value of long-term appreciated securities is tax deductible. This means you give away the capital gain (the difference between your cost basis and its present value). You avoid the capital gains tax and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the gift. You save taxes twice!

Gifts of Real Estate

Virtually any real property – a home, farm, office building or land – can become a gift. As with gifts of securities, the full market value is deductible and you pay no capital gains tax.

SPECIAL GIFTS:

Gifts to the Endowment Fund

All non-designated contributions go directly into the general operating fund. However, some members periodically make a special gift (in addition to their weekly tithe) to NLCC's Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund, established in 1992, currently has a balance of \$60,000. In the future we plan to build upon this fund in hopes that it will provide NLCC with an alternative source of income; the earnings of which would be applied to the church's general operating budget or to specific programs or projects.

PLANNED GIVING:

By making a planned gift you can achieve your charitable goals and you can enjoy the intended gift during your lifetime. The following are some of the ways you can contribute:

Bequests & Wills

A bequest is a legal provision, made by a will, which names an individual or charitable organization as the recipient of a portion, or all, of your estate. In making a bequest to NLCC, you may specify a dollar amount, indicate a percentage of estate value or the remainder of your estate, or bequeath a particular asset or allocation of assets. The form of your bequest can be tailored by you and your lawyer:

- A DIRECT BEQUEST names NLCC as the direct beneficiary of specific assets, such as cash, stock, real estate or art.
- A CONTINGENT BEQUEST ensures that the bulk of your estate goes to your children, or other close family members and NLCC is named as a contingent, or alternative beneficiary. Thus, your assets pass to NLCC if your primary beneficiaries do not survive you.
- A CODICIL allows you to add to your existing will and include a bequest to NLCC.

Life Insurance

Many people purchase life insurance when they need protection for their family, business or estate. In later years, they may find they don't need all the insurance they did when they were younger because they have built an estate of other assets or their children are self-supporting. As a result, they may consider transferring their policies to NLCC and thereby receive a charitable deduction.

In addition to gifting an existing life insurance policy, a new life insurance policy can be purchased from your life insurance professional naming NLCC as the owner and beneficiary. The initial premium payments made by the donor are deductible as charitable deductions.

*"Aim at
heaven and
you will get
earth thrown
in. Aim at
earth and you
will get
neither."*

*C. S. Lewis,
Mere
Christianity*

MORE INFORMATION:

For further information on any of these giving opportunities please call the church office at (203) 746-3725 or e-mail NFUMC@aol.com.

The finance committee offers these guidelines as you consider your commitment for 2007. First, pray about your commitment. Ask God to guide your decision. Second, consider these challenges:

If you are in a financial jam

We only ask that you give what you can. Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from church! Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at New Life Community Church is not based upon your capacity to give! We only ask for you to consider--how are you living your life? How do you use your resources? If you were to look at your spending would it emphasize meeting your needs or the needs of others? Perhaps adjustments in your spending priorities need to be considered.

If you are an occasional giver

Step up in 2007 to become a regular giver! We challenge you to give a set amount each month and to take the next step toward tithing by increasing your current commitment. We also encourage people to give regularly throughout the year--especially during the summer months when our ministry costs remain the same.

If you are a regular giver

We are grateful for your consistent gifts! We challenge you to take the next step toward tithing.

If you are a tither

Thank you for your commitment to Christ and for your generosity in supporting the ministries of our church! Please continue to pray that the Lord would continue to lead you in your giving.

Where Am I To Give?

Giving should start with your local Bible-believing, Christ-centered church, the spiritual community to which you're accountable (Galatians 6:6; 1 Corinthians 9:9-12). Of course, after the tithe (10%), you can generously support worthy missions and parachurch ministries, carefully evaluating them by biblical standards.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

*Jim Elliot,
20th
century
American
missionary
to Ecuador*

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