

FAQ's

Who manages the stewardship and fiscal activities of the Church?

The Executive Pastor and administrative staff manage the daily financial activities of CBC. The Stewardship Committee reviews past and discusses upcoming financial activities of the church on a monthly basis. The Executive Pastor works with the Senior Pastor, Elders, Staff, and Stewardship Committee to provide leadership to overall stewardship and fiscal direction. The Stewardship Committee is in the process of engaging an independent external Certified Public Accountant to provide at least a quarterly review of the church's financial activities for further oversight.

How are fiscal activities of the Church communicated to the membership?

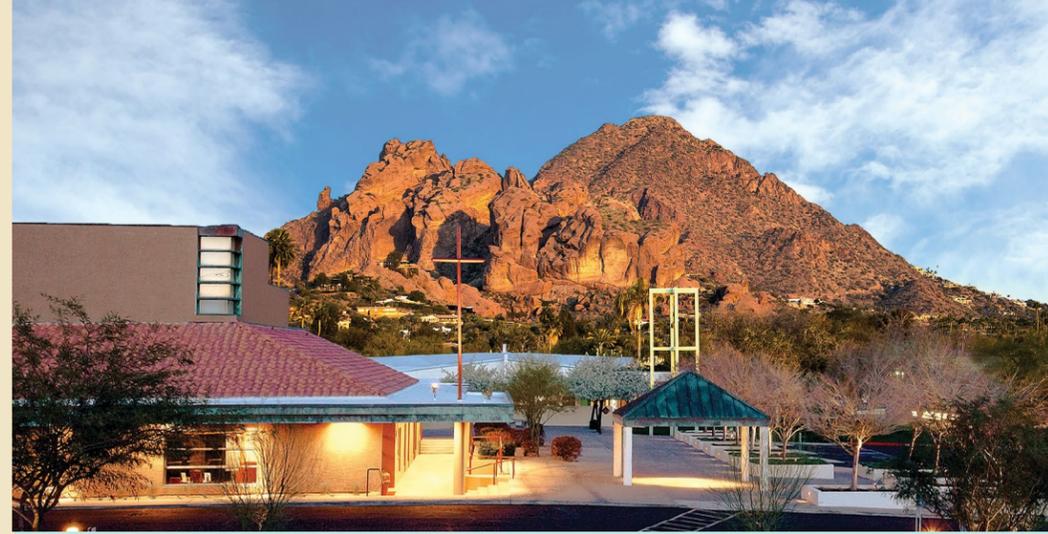
On a weekly basis, our email and in-service newsletter (the InTouch) includes an updated report of giving from the past week and year-to-date, along with the remaining need to meet the annual budget. Additionally, the Stewardship Committee communicates to the church body via InTouch articles and emails. Quarterly giving reports are sent to individual church members to recap individual giving for the quarter/year.

Why is it important for me to provide a commitment for giving financially to the Church?

Our financial commitment serves two significant purposes. Of utmost importance, it gives all of us an established time to reflect on the blessings God had given us – both spiritual and physical. After reflecting on God's goodness and Jesus' example as the ultimate Steward, we intentionally commit our resources back to the Lord in reflection of God's abundant blessings. Additionally, your commitment enables the Executive Pastor to establish a suitable budget for our church expenses which will allow the church to be a good steward of corporate resources.

What avenues are available for me to use in fulfilling my giving commitment?

Church attendees are given the opportunity to place monetary offerings and gifts in the offering bags that are passed during the weekly worship services, using available giving envelopes or not. The church has also established a secure online giving website (linked to the www.camelbackbible.org home page via the "Giving" button) which may be used for one-time or recurring offerings from either bank account or debit/credit cards. Recently, the Stewardship Committee also provided email communications regarding the new opportunity to gift securities. Please see a Stewardship Committee member at the Giving Table in the Hospitality Center if you have any questions about how you can give to the church.



Stewardship Sunday is an opportunity for us to remember and respond to the abundant blessings God has gifted to us, His beloved children. We will join together as a church body to set aside individual time ahead of our corporate worship gathering on February 23 to reflect on what stewardship is and how we can respond to the Lord with a grateful and generous spirit. As a unified body, over 80% of our church family responded with a card brought forward on Celebration Sunday nearly two years ago for the purpose of beginning to renew our family home, Camelback Bible Church's facilities. But we are especially reminded on Stewardship Sunday that we have an opportunity to annually commit to the Lord's work in our families, church, community, workplaces, and schools by giving generously and sacrificially to the church. How incredible would it be to see our body respond as faithfully to the church's annual mission as we responded to the call to renew our family home?!

We have spent and will continue to spend a significant amount of time in our corporate worship remembering how the early church responded to the Ultimate Steward – Jesus Christ. We read that they were committed to following Christ's example by dedicating their entire lives and all of their resources to the new church. It is the ultimate goal of Camelback Bible Church that we would always be a family on a mission for the glory of God, extending the love of Christ to all people, for the renewal of all things. Our response to God's blessings through our financial stewardship enables the church to fulfill this mission; may we give joyfully toward this mission and see, like the church in Acts, a multitude of people added to our number each day!

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2: 42-47

Responding to the Abundance of God's Blessings



*"Thanks be to God for his gift
that is too wonderful for words."*

2 Corinthians 9:15

What is stewardship? Over the next six days, we will explore the meaning of stewardship together. On the seventh day, Sunday, February 23, please join the Camelback church body for Stewardship Sunday, where we will be led by the pastors and elders in offering our gifts and commitments together in celebration and worship of God's grace and generosity toward us.

Day 1 Stewardship is...Recognition of God's Ownership

Read: Psalm 50, especially 7-15

Apply: God is the creator (Gen 1:1), the sole ruler and Lord over all creation. He controls all things in this world, the whole creation (Psalm 50:12). Nothing that we do takes away from God's overruling presence throughout all of creation. It is his to create, and protect, and use for his glory. So whenever we use the resources of the world, we use the resources of God's world. That also means that "the silver is mine and the gold is mine" (Haggai 2:8). When we look at our own lives and resources, we tend to forget God's sovereign ownership of creation. We expect him to care for us as if he owes us something.

In Job 41:11, God replies, "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me." Or, we think that we have earned our treasures because of our own abilities (Deuteronomy 8:17). God doesn't need our money as if he needed an income. Instead, we need him every moment to sustain us. Our worship, and the dedication of our whole lives to him, is an acknowledgment of his control over everything. It's a thank offering, a giving back of what we have so abundantly received (Psalm 50:14).

Pray: For a renewed heart that daily remembers God's active control of the world and a thankful heart that praises his loving care.

Day 2 Stewardship is...Revering Christ as the Ultimate Steward

Read: John 1:1-18

Apply: Jesus the Word is the creator of everything; this is his world (John 1:1-3). If stewardship, in its simplest implication, is about giving, then John 1:1 confronts the world with the greatest gift ever given, the most astounding act of generosity that can be imagined. God presented his most valuable gift to man in the Eternal Word made flesh. Once in the world, Jesus the Incarnate Son then gave himself to the Father in complete submission and to the world as the Servant from God. In his earthly existence, Jesus was a steward charged with a divine mandate.

Jesus fulfilled his role of steward perfectly and managed his life faithfully. Looking at a world filled with people facing the death sentence of sin, Jesus

Christ laid aside the riches of heaven and came to be Savior. As he walked the earth, he continued to give his for the glory of God and the building of his kingdom. Even faced with death, he gave his last treasure, his own life, to save the lives of others. He went to the cross with no regret that if he had been a better steward, he might have done more. He had done everything God wanted of him, and he became the master steward.

Pray: Thank the Lord for the gifts of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, who enables you to be a steward of all that you have been entrusted.

Day 3 Stewardship is...Contentment

Read: Hebrews 13:1-6

Apply: In the midst of exhorting Christians to live according to the gospel the writer to the Hebrews actually commands contentment. Just as contentment is a result of trusting God, it is also the means of trusting God. To be discontent is to accuse God with being either unloving or impotent. Contentment with our life is therefore as important a virtue as love, hospitality, mercy, or fidelity. Sadly, we live in a culture of discontent. Every day we see ads trying to convince us that what we have is not good enough. We need something new, something better. Desires become hopes, which become wants, which become 'needs.' "I've just got to have that new HDTV wide-screen TV." Once the newness wears off, it's time for another new thing.

Paul advises Timothy to stay focused on the lasting joy of contentment. "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." (1st Tim 6:6)

Pray: For a renewed heart that is content with God's provision, that isn't always looking to new things for satisfaction.

Day 4 Stewardship is...Cheerful Generosity

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Apply: When Christians give, they give motivated by grace. A reluctant gift or a guilt-manipulated gift is not generosity, it's fulfilling an obligation. A generous lifestyle, however, is a life of freedom, of simplicity, of joy, of fruitfulness, of purpose. There is a satisfaction to pleasing God, to bringing joy and honor to him. A Christian should smile as they give, they should want to give. We should see giving like a roller coaster ride: it feels adventurous and risky, but it's really safe. We think we are going to plummet, but God holds onto us tightly (9:8). Many Christians experience that thrill; once they make giving a priority, it becomes more and more joyful.

Pray: Pray for a renewed lifestyle that expresses grace, holds onto possessions and talents loosely, and finds joy in giving.

Day 5 Stewardship is...Sacrificial

Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-4, 9-11

Apply: The idea of 'first fruits' giving is to offer up to God the first rewards of our labor in acknowledgment that what we have is a gift from God. The first fruits were the choicest, the best of the harvest. The Israelites were saying, "God, you've given us this bounty, so now we give it back to you." Giving the first fruits is also a sacrifice. They could be sold for a higher price than the rest of the harvest. In giving them away, God's people trusted Him to provide a continued harvest. It was therefore a sacrificial pledge; a promise that all things belong to God.

Christ gave sacrificially, and so Christian giving is sacrificial giving. His first fruits were the pledge of the Holy Spirit, the guarantee of the full harvest of his promise. Christians have continued this practice, giving first fruits sacrificially, trusting that the Lord will provide.

Pray: Pray for a renewed lifestyle that seeks to give God the first of everything in all areas of life.

Day 6 Stewardship is...Praise to God

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

Apply: When we can bless others with our generosity, the praise goes to God. People who receive the generous grace of Christians are able to praise God "because of the surpassing grace God has given" (verse 14). They know that such a gift comes from an even greater source - the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Giving is just a part of a lifestyle of generosity. Christians always give of their heart, their time, their hope, and their prayers.

Jesus died for us to set us free from this life of death. By putting to death the old, we take on the new life found in Christ. We trust that God will provide us the strength to be content in all situations (Phil. 4:11-13) so that we can in turn sacrifice joyfully for the sake of the gospel.

Pray: Pray for a renewed church, full of people with renewed hearts, who are free to risk everything for the sake of the gospel.

Stewardship devotional resources generously provided by Redeemer Presbyterian Church and LightSource.com

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