

November 11, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Cost of Growth

We are growing and simply put: there is a cost to growth. We use more resources than we used to and as we grow in depth and maturity too, this involves more study, mission, and events (*which also need to be funded*).

As we minister to a greater variety of needs, one of the best things we did was to hire a pastoral care minister whose job it is to visit our oldest members. Ideally, we'd like to add to the staff team, and provide a little more for those we already have as well.

Lessons from 1st Timothy

Because 1st Timothy says so much about money, we used our series on it to frame our thinking about the budget for 2025.

In the first of three teachings on money, Ben explained that churches need resources to care for people, as well as to care for those who work for them. The word Paul uses is "honor" which is a Greek word meaning value, ascribe worth or esteem; it is even a word that sometimes just means money. In other words, there is a clear link between how we care for people and what we give to the church.

In week two, we looked at why pastors might not want to talk about money but why it is such an important subject for our souls. I encouraged everyone to make an inventory of how they use it and to view that exercise as an inventory of honor.

In week three we looked at how much joy there is to be found in sharing what we have with others, and at the eternal significance of the decisions we make with money here and now.

How Much Should I Give?

We don't set a rule, but as we said in our teaching, something in the region of 10% is a helpful guide to which the pastoral staff, vestry, and prayer ministry team subscribes.

Very large giving above this does not and cannot perfect your soul (only grace can achieve that) but very low giving below it is a grave warning sign that something might seem more worthy of honor to you than God.

As you weigh up what you would like to give in 2025, please read the brochure, revisit the sermons, or the Podcast and pray about what the Lord might be calling you to do.

Yours in Christ,



Rev'd Alex
Rector