

What's enough?

Money is a disquieting topic for many people because they feel obliged to give every time they're asked. If they can't afford that, they feel bad, and then they get angry at the church for making them feel bad.

You should not feel obliged to give every time there's an opportunity for giving.

Biblical injunctions about giving stress words like "freely" (*I Chronicles 29:9*) and "cheerfully" (*II Corinthians 9:7*) You should give when you're moved, when you sense that it can help you grow in faith.

Yes, we encourage regular giving, a portion of your blessings. Yes, sometimes you should give more than seems prudent; giving, like exercise and many other good things, should stretch us. But again: you need not give to *everything* that comes along, though we do naturally hope that members will make an annual commitment to the operating budget.

The church provides far more opportunities for giving than most people can afford. That's because we know that different people like giving to different purposes: some big, some small; some local, some global; some "bricks and mortar," some programmatic; and so on. So we try to offer a variety.

Choose the ones that help you best

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER is a community of faith, which is to say it's a group of people who connect their lives to one another and to God through Jesus Christ. The institutional life and work we share depends, as does any institution, on money.

BUT WE'RE MORE than just the sum of our budgets and bank accounts. We have an outstanding program of faith formation on Sunday mornings for children from nursery age through high school, adult Bible study and discussion groups, a daytime women's organization, a Cub Scout pack, a prayer/study group, and more.

OUR WORSHIP is centered on the Sunday morning service at 10:30, celebrating communion on the first Sunday each month. We have three Christmas Eve services, plus a "Blue Christmas" service at the winter solstice for those whose holidays are not so jolly. Once a quarter we hold a service of healing prayer at the close of the morning worship. For more information, pick up a copy of our newsletter, *The Grapevine* (this property was once a vineyard), or see our website, www.corrucc.org; our office hours are 9:00 to noon Monday through Friday.

**No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

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**MONEY
@ REDEEMER
WHERE IT GOES
WHAT IT DOES**

Why Money Matters

Jesus spoke about money and material possessions more than he spoke about prayer, or Heaven, or any other topic.

This should not be surprising. Jesus was concerned with *values* and how they are expressed. And nothing expresses our values so clearly as how we view and use our money.

Following Jesus, the *church* returns regularly and often to the topic of money.

But money is not the lifeblood of the church. It is more like the gasoline for the engine of our mission—important if we're to get anywhere.

As much as money is involved in forwarding the goals of the *institution*, it is far more important as one of the principal ways we express our personal *faith*.

One solid principle of the Christian faith is that our God is a God of *abundance*, not scarcity.

When we give generously, we express not just thanks, but a conviction that “there’s more where that came from”—from our gracious God.

Where Our Money Is

Our church assigns money to various *funds* as a way of keeping track. Each fund has an official description of its sources of income, recommended balance, *etc.* Some funds have a committee overseeing their use. Our funds include:

Money is made up of spendable pieces.

❖ **The Operating Fund**—also referred to as “the general fund,” this is where most of our donations are received and the source of payments for mission giving, salaries, office expenses, utilities, insurance, curriculum, etc.

❖ **The Endowment Fund**—a separate and detailed set of rules govern the use of this fund; briefly, a portion of its income may go each year toward certain areas of our work, including currently our Renewal Plan. The principal of this fund is never spent, but invested under the direction of our Planned Giving Board.

More details about any of the funds are found in the Fund Description Forms available through the church office, or by talking with our Treasurer.

❖ **The Facilities Fund**—this may be thought of as a major maintenance or contingency fund for helping with unbudgeted projects like a roof or boiler. It accumulates income from gifts and budget allocations, which may then be used and later restored.

❖ **The First Church Legacy Fund**—this fund is likewise directed by criteria for assisting in mission, the Parish Nurse program, and more. Its disbursements are overseen by a five-member Legacy Fund Committee.

❖ **The Memorial Fund**—this fund receives special gifts in remembrance of deceased members and friends, and is used to purchase somewhat more enduring items such as the altar cloths or name tags (not “consumables” or the like). A Memorial Fund Committee receives suggestions for disbursements and makes its recommendations to the Consistory.

❖ **The J R Mead Fund**—this is a pastor’s discretionary fund for use in assisting persons with special or emergency needs. It receives personal contributions (rather than being a line item in the operating budget) and so its balance varies.

