

# *A GUIDE TO GIVING*

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## YOUR CREEKSIDE OFFERINGS TO THE LORD



September, 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 3

**BUILDING/EQUIPPING/SERVING/TESTIFYING**

*Experiencing God's BEST in our Lives!*

### Giving to the Lord

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Giving to the Lord starts with the giving of our very lives to Him as a living sacrifice. God wants our hearts, not our money. Giving to the Lord, though, is an act of worship acknowledging our love, trust and dependence on God.

At Creekside Community Church we encourage members to regularly give to God a "first fruits" offering as an act of worship. How much is "first fruits"? In the Old Testament there are examples of giving 10%, 20% and more - but we desire people to give out of a heart of worship and love towards God, no matter what amount is given. We encourage people to give sacrificially as led ultimately by the Lord, not by man.

At Creekside Community Church, our pastors and elders are committed to being good stewards of God's resources. We recognize that the offerings and tithes we give to the Lord were the Lord's in the first place and they continue to belong to Him. Creeksiders do not give to "Creekside" or Creekside's budget, but first to the Lord. Yet in order to use His resources wisely, we determine a budget every year to help us use God's resources effectively.

At times, there are specific financial needs that are beyond the "first fruits" offering. For example, some of us give to missionaries or special ministries outside our church. Others may hear about a special need or a fund for a particular project and are moved to give. We should all live ready to give generously when real needs are presented. I hope this brochure helps you as you prayerfully consider why and how you give. May the glory be His in the church!

***Pastor Nick Vleisides***

## What does the Bible say about giving?

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*"There you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your votive offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. There also you and your households shall eat before the LORD your God, and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the LORD your God has Blessed you. Deut. 12:6-7*

*Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. Prov. 3:10-11*

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt. 6:19-21*



### Other verses about giving...

- **Deut. 16:10** (*give in proportion to the blessings given to you*)
- **Psalm 50:9-12** (*God owns everything*)
- **Romans 12:13** (*contribute to the needs of the saints*)
- **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** (*the joy of giving to the Lord*)
- **Hebrews 13:16** (*God is pleased when we share with others*)

## What happens to the tithes and offerings I give to the Lord at Creekside?

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*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; Psalm 24:1*

Your tithes and offerings to the Lord at Creekside support the member-approved fiscal-year budget which is used to build up and equip the body of Christ for the purpose of continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world today. Approximately ten percent of the budget supports worldwide missions and local outreach. We would love to see that grow as we become more and more generous in using God's money to bring the gospel to those less fortunate with food, drink, shelter and medical resources, both here and abroad.

## How are Creekside funds managed?

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The Creekside financial resources are prayerfully managed by the ministry staff with oversight by the Elder Board, Treasurer, church Business Administrator and the Creekside Finance and Human Resources Team.

## Are my gifts to Creekside confidential?

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*But when you give to someone, don't tell your left hand what your right hand is doing. Matt. 6:3*

Creekside Community Church respects the Bible's command that all who give to the Lord shall give with complete anonymity. Only a select team of counters and our church Business Administrator have access to gifts or giving records.

On at least a yearly basis, all donors will be sent a Contribution Statement, regardless of the size of the gifts. To receive a current statement of giving at any time, or if you have questions regarding the tax deductibility of your donation, please contact the church Business Administrator.

## What Creekside funds can I contribute to?

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Donations made to Creekside are accepted for unrestricted use. Should you choose, donations may also be accepted for established restricted funds. The various Creekside funds include:

- The **Creekside General Fund** provides for the operating needs of the church as outlined in the budget. All gifts will be applied to the General Fund unless otherwise requested by the donor.
- The **Building/Property Fund** is designed to cover the needs of the Creekside facilities and grounds above the operating budget. This fund may be used, for example, to provide new playground equipment, paint the church or replace an aging furnace in the worship center.
- The **Creekside Missions Fund** provides assistance for special or one-time needs of our Creekside family of missionaries. The Missions Committee oversees this fund.
- The **Deacon's Fund** provides assistance to Creekside members, attenders and others with one-time or ongoing financial needs. All disbursements from this fund are approved in advance by the Deacons Committee.
- The **Creekside Scholarship Fund** provides backing for students or children who wish to attend Creekside camps or missions trips and require financial assistance.

To give a contribution to a specific fund, please write the name of the fund in the memo area of your check. If giving electronically, designate your gift using the memo field. All undesignated gifts are deposited into the general fund.

## Methods of giving to Creekside

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### PERSONAL CHECK

Make the check payable to Creekside Community Church and place it in the offering on Sunday mornings. You can also mail your gift directly to:

Creekside Community Church  
Attn: Business Office  
1350 Danville Boulevard  
Alamo, CA 94507-1909

### ON-LINE BANKING

You can set up one-time or recurring gifts to Creekside through your financial institution's bill-pay service and a check will be mailed to Creekside with your name and address for updating to your giving record.

### PAYROLL DEDUCTION

If your employer participates in a giving campaign (such as United Way) or will match gifts made to religious organizations, please consider giving a gift to Creekside using this method. Our federal tax ID is #68-0004118.

### E-GIVING

Another convenient way to give a one-time or recurring gift to the Creekside general, missions or special funds is online through the Creekside website.



[www.creeksidechurch.com](http://www.creeksidechurch.com)

### STOCK GIFTS

Creekside has an account with Merrill Lynch to handle the sale of gifts of stock received. For more information on donating stock to Creekside, please contact the church office.

### PLANNED GIVING

Please contact your financial advisor for information on giving a donation to Creekside via Charitable Trusts, Income Funds or Charitable Gift Annuities.

*Remember... No matter which method above you choose to give, every Sunday, during our offering time, you can still acknowledge to the Lord your gift and let Him know how much you love Him!*

## Contact Information

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### The Creekside Finance and Human Resources Team:

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*Our goal is to be good stewards of God's resources while desiring to do whatever we can to accomplish God's plan for our church. We desire to supply needed resources and assist our ministry teams as we sense the Lord's leading in areas requiring fiscal responsibility and stewardship. This team will help to allow the Creekside elders and leaders to "give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word" as described in Acts 6.*