

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

GIVING TO ANGLICAN CHURCHES SPRINGWOOD



Anglican Churches
SPRINGWOOD

Thank you!

Thank you for your interest in supporting Anglican Churches Springwood financially. We are seeking to take Jesus' commission seriously to 'make disciples of all nations', beginning with our local area.

Our church has an exciting vision to be a church that is marked by Christ-like compassion, clarity and integrity. We are seeking to grow in these areas, as we see more and more people joining our congregations to hear God's Word in the fellowship of his people. All of our ministries are aimed at reaching people with Christ, building people in Christ, and/or sending people for Christ into mission and ministry. Financial partnership with Anglican Churches Springwood is an investment in the kingdom of God!

This booklet outlines some biblical foundations for generous financial giving, how our church uses money, and how you can go about partnering with us in God's work.

May God bless you as a channel of his grace!

*The Parish Council
Anglican Churches Springwood*

Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

WHY GIVE?

It is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to reflect their faith in how they use their money. Financial partnership is a very important part of church membership and Christian discipleship.

Why do Christians give financially?

To respond to God's grace. Christians know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was rich, but he made himself poor for our sakes so that we might become rich through his poverty of generosity.

To recognise God's rule. We often think of our money as our own, to be used for our own purposes, with God getting the leftovers. But our money belongs to God along with the rest of our lives. If we have money we should seek to use it according to God's will, not our own.

To respond to need. We are surrounded by human need, the greatest of which is the spiritual need to hear the gospel. The Bible calls upon us to give to support those who preach the Word (1 Timothy 5:17), those in need in our church (James 1:27) and needy Christians elsewhere (2 Corinthians 8).

Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

HOW MUCH TO GIVE?

Christians should give as much as they possibly can. In the Old Testament, God's people gave at least a tenth of all their produce to God in response to his generous blessings. This was first seen in Abraham and Jacob and then enshrined in the Law of Moses ('the tithe'). It was to be given generously and joyfully, not begrudgingly. Once given, God redirected the tithe to his work: to priests and Levites, and to the needy.

As New Testament believers, we have been set free from the Old Testament law, including the 10% tithe. However, we have an even greater revelation of God's grace to which we respond. Some Christians still use 10% as a 'rule of thumb' for their giving, but this should not be seen as a law. Those on lower incomes may not be able to give a tenth. Those on higher incomes, or with less ongoing financial demands, should probably give a lot more than a tenth of their income. What matters is a generous attitude, not the amount given (Luke 21:1-4).

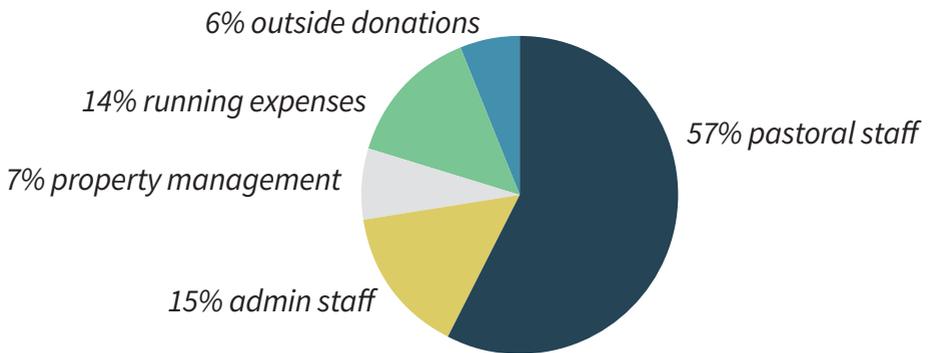
Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

OUR CHURCH'S NEEDS

We are surrounded by needs and there are many worthy causes asking for support from Christian people. Since our local church is our primary network of fellowship and our local area is our primary mission-field, it should also be the primary focus of our giving. Our church relies almost solely on the giving of our members and has no other significant sources of income.

A breakdown of a typical year's regular expenses for our church is shown in the chart below:



Without a steady stream of income from our members we would not be able to maintain many of our ministries to an effective standard, nor send money further afield.

In addition, special larger needs arise from time to time, often associated with property. In such cases we rely on the response of our members to special appeals over and above their regular giving. Such projects provide infrastructure for gospel ministry in this area for decades to come. Our Parish Council sets the budget and seeks to provide regular financial updates to the church.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

PLANNING YOUR GIVING

As a suggestion, financial partners with Anglican Churches Springwood could first decide what proportion of their income they can give responsibly. They could then allocate half (or more) of that proportion as their regular contribution to Anglican Churches Springwood and leave the other half for donations to special appeals at Anglican Churches Springwood or to other organisations or causes. For example:

1: Sheila earns \$65,000 per annum after tax. She calculates that she can afford to give 10% of this income. She sets up regular contributions to Anglican Churches Springwood of 5% (\$3,250 per annum), meaning that she gives roughly \$62 per week to her local church. Of the remaining \$3,250 for the year, Sheila donates \$1,200 to CMS; \$500 to our local high school scripture ministry, SWISH; \$300 to a flood relief appeal and gives the remaining \$1,250 to Anglican Churches Springwood's special property appeal half-way through the year.

2: David and Ruth have a combined income of \$180,000 p.a. They prayerfully undertake to give 15% of this income, most to their church. They set up a monthly direct deposit to the church of \$1,350 (60% of their giving). During the year, they donate \$5,000 to the Anglican Church in the Congo, \$3,000 to Moore College and \$2,800 to CMS.

3: Joe has an annual income of \$20,000 from his part time job and government assistance. He can afford to give about 5%. He sets up a monthly direct deposit to the church of \$40 and sponsors a child through Compassion.

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, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

HOW TO GIVE?

Electronic Funds Transfer

This is our church's preferred way of receiving regular giving because it is efficient, safe, and it allows people to set up automatic periodic transfers ensuring a steadier, more reliable income stream.

The church's account details for deposits to general funds are:

Account name: *Christ Church Springwood*

BSB: *062 - 601*

Account number: *10061657*

Description: *<your congregation>*

For deposits to fund local scripture teaching (tax deductible):

Account name: *Lower Mountains Scripture in Government Schools*

BSB: *062 - 601*

Account number: *10272104*

Cash in church

Cash can be given via the collection bags during service. Dated giving envelopes are available for confidentiality and help with regularity of giving in church.

Bequests

It is a wonderful and heart-warming blessing to our church to receive bequests from members who have passed away. It is most helpful when money is left to the parish generally rather than for a very specific purpose. However our Parish Council endeavours to direct such money to areas where the deceased is known to have had an interest or involvement. Those wishing to leave to the church in their will should seek help from a solicitor.

