

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARLINGTON



Enter In

Practical Ideas for Living & Giving Generously

From The Pastor

What emotion immediately comes to mind when you hear the word sacrifice? Is it positive or negative? If we are honest most would say that it evokes a negative emotion. What about investment? Positive or negative? Most think of the stock market when they hear the word investment. If you have had any investments in the stock market in the last decade then your response to the word investment should be positive.

It is interesting to note that the definition of sacrifice and investment are very similar; 'the giving up of something of value so something of greater value can be achieved or obtained.'

In the parable of the Three Servants, each of the three servants were given the opportunity to manage the resources of the landowner, however they chose. Like the landowner, God has given us free will from the beginning. Two of the servants chose to invest the resources placed in their care, and in both cases their investments were doubled. The landowner invited them into the Joy of their Lord.

The third servant acted out of fear and chose to do nothing with the talent. The landowner was most disappointed and angry and called the third servant 'wicked and lazy'.

The giving of our finances can be scary; especially if we are experiencing financial or spiritual challenges. However, the parable of the talents illustrates the reward waiting for us if we choose to trust God with our finances and invest in His Kingdom even if it requires sacrifice.

As we Enter In to this season of giving, we have put this Generosity Toolbox together to offer you creative and different ways to give that you may not have thought of before. We hope it provides you hope as you Enter In to the conversation of how you and your family can invest in the Kingdom of God through FPCA.

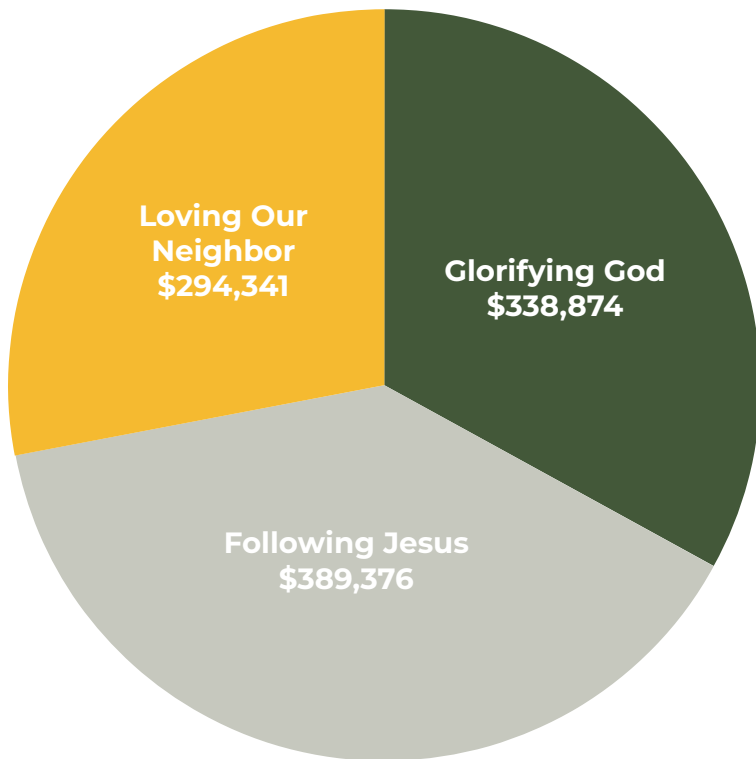
In Christ's Service,
Chris Campbell, Lead Pastor



Your financial priorities naturally flow out of your spiritual priorities. In the parable often called the parable of the Three Servants all three of the servants show their spiritual priorities by the way they exercise their financial priorities. Though the text does not specifically indicate this reality, the power of the story and its outcome makes this maxim abundantly clear. For the first two, they were willing to invest what they had received. No doubt this investment—a real sacrifice to them since they could have spent the funds on themselves—was based on their belief that the landowner would honor their sound investment. The third servant, operated out of fear. He believed what he had heard about the landowner and was not about to risk any of what he was given. His financial priorities flowed from his spiritual priorities.

There have quite a few challenges over the last 18-24 months that could cause anyone to follow the example of the third servant. And yet, God, like the landowner in this parable, is offering each of us the opportunity for our financial priorities to flow out of our spiritual priorities in a way that looks very different from how the world would think we would react. Our church has been blessed. We as members, though the times have not always been easy, we lean onto a God who always blesses our spiritual welfare. As we consider 2022, let's have our individual priorities flow from our spiritual priorities. The parable indicates, if we will, we will Enter In to the Joy of the Lord.

Where will the money go?





Glorifying God: \$338,874

We glorify God through excellent biblical preaching, extraordinary choral music, quality instrumental music, authentic and worshipful liturgy, well-read Scripture, and meaningful worship extending God's love to others.

Following Jesus: \$389,376


We teach adults, youth and children the transforming power of the gospel of Christ, and what it means truly to follow Jesus.

Loving Our Neighbor: \$294,341

We demonstrate love for our neighbors by sharing the Gospel of Christ with our community, region and the world, through our presence and resources, along with ministries designed to offer heart-felt, practical, caring love.

During all services on November 21, 2021 , our FPCA family will have the opportunity to celebrate God's grace and generosity as we complete our Estimate of Giving cards to the Enter In campaign.

You will receive your card prior to Commitment Sunday to be completed and returned. Below is an example of the Estimate of Giving card.

<div data-bbox="446 487 792 578"></div> <div data-bbox="483 618 755 641">2022 Estimate of Giving</div> <div data-bbox="453 649 786 666"><i>Please contact me/us with information about:</i></div> <div data-bbox="457 676 721 839"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Help with setting up online recurring gifts<input type="checkbox"/> Making a gift of appreciated assets or from an IRA<input type="checkbox"/> Giving through my/our Estate Planning (will, insurance beneficiary, etc.)</div>	<div data-bbox="894 421 1174 443">MY / OUR COMMITMENT</div> <div data-bbox="849 455 1218 521"><i>I/We will trust in the Lord with all our heart. I/We will honor the Lord with my first fruits. I/We estimate giving to the Lord's work/ministry through our church next year as follows:</i></div> <div data-bbox="849 552 1213 569">2022 Annual Estimate of Giving \$ _____</div> <div data-bbox="899 577 1164 594"><i>I/We plan to fulfill this commitment:</i></div> <div data-bbox="920 605 1138 653"><table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Weekly</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Annually</td></tr></table></div> <div data-bbox="930 660 1130 676"><i>Your information. Please print.</i></div> <div data-bbox="849 691 1213 708">Name _____</div> <div data-bbox="849 722 1213 738">Address _____</div> <div data-bbox="849 752 1213 769">City _____ ST _____ Zip _____</div> <div data-bbox="849 782 1213 798">Phone _____</div> <div data-bbox="849 811 1213 827">Email _____</div> <div data-bbox="849 840 1213 857">Signature _____</div> <div data-bbox="867 865 1196 894"><i>I understand this estimate of giving may be revised or canceled at any time at my request.</i></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly				
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually				

Each of us are blessed differently when it comes to money. Just like in the parable of the talents, God gives each of us a different amount of talents and resources to manage. While some can give larger amounts than others, we can all look at ways to alter our lifestyles and spending patterns to free up financial resources to reinvest those dollars into the Kingdom through FPCA.

Below is a chart to illustrate how small changes can have a big impact on our ability to give.

ACTIVITY PER MONTH	AVERAGE COST	x 12 MONTHS	x 150 FAMILIES
4 CUPS OF COFFEE	\$16	\$192	\$28,800
2 LARGE PIZZAS	\$24	\$288	\$43,200
4 FAST FOOD MEALS	\$30	\$360	\$54,000
TOTAL:			\$126,000



Following are creative ways to give that perhaps you haven't thought of before or may not be aware of.

1. PRIORITY BUDGETING

You may choose to rearrange your priorities and give up something in your current budget in order to grow in your giving. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, remodeling, or other major purchase.

2. APPRECIATED ASSETS

Many people own assets that have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. That is good news. The bad news is that if these assets were sold, a significant portion of the gain could be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets – typically investment securities - can be advantageous to both the giver and the church.

3. IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are 72 in age or older (or 70 1/2 in age or older if you reached 70 1/2 before Jan. 1, 2020), and have an IRA, there are certain advantageous rules for you. Please contact your financial planner or accountant to learn more about how to give in this manner.

4. CARES ACT IMPACT ON GIVING

The CARES Act of 2020 in response to the Corona Virus includes a clause that radically impacts giving for individuals who itemize their personal tax returns. Many of these provisions have been extended into 2021. Please contact your financial planner or accountant to learn more about how to give in this manner.