Why do we give? Celebrating the offering as an act of worship

Lori Guenther Reesor, September 19, 2018
About Lori

• B. Math (Statistics)
• Master of Theological Studies
• D. Min. at Tyndale University College and Seminary, 2014
• Blog and research posted at www.lgreesor.com
About Lori

- fundraising consultant
- data analyst
- theologian
- poet
- donor
- board member
- former pastor
- wife, mom
Please type in your questions

Moderator will read them out on your behalf. We’ll also take question breaks during the presentation and again at the end.
Celebrating the offering as an act of worship

Today we will cover:

• Theology – why do we give?
• Worship - praying for and talking about the offering
• Practical suggestions for ways to give
Two Stories from Little Boys

The Offering is important
Peach Blossom Church

Offering
Theology – why do we give?
Abundance of a Generous God

God’s Grace is Limitless
Circle of Grace Model

God

Praise and Thanksgiving

People

Gracious Action

People

Grace
Why start with gratitude?

• Christians give in grateful obedience to all God has given us
• God’s abundant grace continues in all circumstances and we can always afford to be generous (2 Cor 9:8)

When we talk about giving, we are grateful for:

• our church where we worship God together
• the generous people who share their time, talent and treasure
Scarcity
Never Enough
Money
Anxious or Grateful?
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Worship - praying for and talking about the offering
“Testimony is a stronger motivator than guilt”.
Pastor Kay’s Worry List
20% of self-identified American Christians do not give any money to their church.
80/20 rule of Church giving

• 20% of members give 80% of the money
Pastor Kay’s Worry List
Offering stories

• J. Clif Christopher – *Not Your Parent’s Offering Plate*

• 1 Samuel - Goldfish crackers & Sunday School

• Nehemiah – custodians, people who shovel snow

• Stories of God’s faithfulness and why I give, why this church matters to me (in related news, congregation raised $100,000 for endowment fund in a single year without any fundraising dinners. They tell stories in worship)

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Practical suggestions for ways to give
Holy Spirit may also speak to people who don’t have a cheque book.
42% of churches do online giving
Who can help?

- Check out digital giving webinar and handouts at presbyterian.ca/webinars/previous-webinars/
- In the stewardship section, select
  - “The Power of Digital Giving”
Who can help?

• Donate button on website – Canada Helps


• Digital giving

Who can help?

• Pre-authorized giving –
  • The Presbyterian Church of Canada is part of the PAR program, administered by the United Church of Canada. It’s a very economical way for people to give at $0.50 per donor per month, with a cap of $45 per congregation per month

• talk to your bank or credit union

• talk to other churches,
Contact us

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THANK YOU!