

## Spiritual Definition of the Tithe

The Bible speaks of the tithe as a standard for giving. The tithe is defined as the first ten percent of our earnings, returned to God and the work of the church. This is difficult for some, and others have grown in their generosity far beyond this biblical standard. Growing in the grace of giving is a worthy, God-honoring goal to consider yearly.

## How is St. Stephen's funded?

Our proposed 2020 budget of \$193,000 will be funded by pledge and plate offerings, special offerings, earnings on invested funds, and a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. The EDLA grant has decreased from \$47,000 in 2008 to the \$14,000 grant we are proposing for 2020.

## Why is it important to return an "Estimate of Giving" Card?

By completing and returning an "Estimate of Giving" Card, you are expressing your intent and affirming your desire to honor God with your resources. You are also investing in the ministry of St. Stephen's Church, now and in the future. Returning your "Estimate of Giving" Card makes it possible for our church to plan and implement ministries without hesitation. Knowing your plans allows wise management of resources throughout the year. All ministries our church implements are dependent upon the generosity of God's people.

## What happens to my "Estimate of Giving" Card once I return it?

Your "Estimate of Giving" Card will remain confidential and is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to the Lord. If your situation changes and you would like to increase or decrease your estimate, call the church office and ask the Parish Treasurer, Warden or Vicar to contact you.

## Special Projects

*Please check below if you would like to make an additional financial commitment to St. Stephen's by contributing to one or more ministry areas.*

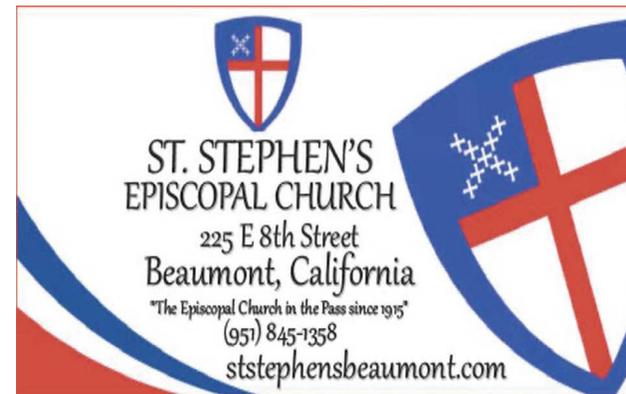
Check If Yes	Project	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	Altar Flowers/Furnishings	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blessings in a Backpack	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Building Fund	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christmas Tree Festival	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diocese of Los Angeles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Memorial Garden`	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Music Ministry	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Souper Bowl of Caring	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tony Peña Camp Fund	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	United Thank Offering	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vicar's Discretionary Fund	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winans Scholarship	_____

*I would like to contribute to a ministry or special project not shown above (specify):*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*I have included St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in my estate planning.*    Yes    No



St. Stephen's Mission  
(Episcopal)

2020 Estimate of Giving  
Operating Pledge &  
Special Projects

**"Restoring all people to unity  
with God and each other in  
Christ"**

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## A word about Christian Stewardship

**“Christian Stewardship is what we do with what we have because of who and whose we are.”**

As children of God, we recognize God as the source of all blessings, and that we can use our gifts to help restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. This suggests that we grow deeper in our faith by opening our hearts to prayer, and personally evaluating and challenging existing habits. One way to do this is to return a portion of our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings. Our gifts help to create and implement ministries that change lives, transform communities, and spread the good news of Christ.

***“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
(2 Corinthians 9:7, NRSV)***

### How much should I give?

Giving comes from the heart, and prayer is essential for determining what to give. Your decision to be faithful originates out of your love for God. This is shown most powerfully in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (NRSV)

Evaluate your current giving. Does it reflect your blessings? Is it generous? Is it time for you to increase your giving to God and the work of the church? In these questions, you will find your answer.

## Growing in the Grace of Giving

Trusting God for the future, I/we desire to be faithful in giving so others can experience God’s love through the ministries of our church.

### ***Estimate of Giving Operating Pledge for the Next 12 Months***

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

12-MONTH TOTAL

Anticipated schedule and amount:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly for 52 weeks

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly for 12 months

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually

***Is this the first pledge card you have submitted to St. Stephen’s?***  Yes  No

***Would you like to contribute to one of our special projects over and above your operating pledge?***  Yes  No

***If so, please specify on the back.***

***Would you like to discuss giving with the Treasurer and/or Vicar?***  Yes  No

Name (s)

Preferred Address

City/State/Zip

Preferred Telephone Number

Primary E-mail Address

Preferred Method of Sending Gifts  
(Please choose one)

Check  Bank Draft

Cash (using giving envelopes)

Open to other giving options when available

Signature (s)