

# GIVING AS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH



*Giving is a natural response to God's grace –  
a joyful surrender as we recognize all we have  
comes from Him. Giving is an act of faith.*

## WHY WE GIVE

God desires and values a heart that overflows with gratitude and thanksgiving to the One who saved us, gives us all things, and knows our needs before we even ask. Such a heart gives generously, willingly, and cheerfully in response to the love and grace that abound in Christ.

## WAYS TO GIVE

There are a variety of giving options. Feel free to choose whatever manner is best for you.

### Offering Boxes

A convenient and secure offering box is located in the lobby and may be used at any time for financial gifts of cash or check. Additional offering boxes are located on the tables on either side of the stairs into the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

### By Mail

Donations by check may be mailed via the US Postal Service or Shell Point's internal mail system.

### Online Banking / Automatic Giving

Recurring, automatic payments or individual payments through your bank's online bill pay service may be initiated to disburse at times of your choosing. The bank will mail your donation to the church. Online giving is available through our website giving page; however, this type of giving does incur processing fees which we encourage you to cover by checking the corresponding box.

However you choose to give, please **ensure that your gift is clearly marked with your name and any preferred designations**. Undesignated gifts are credited to the General Fund.

### Giving Envelopes

Personalized offering envelopes, which are available by contacting the church office, are a convenient and helpful method of ensuring your donation is appropriately credited.

### Statements

Mid-year contribution statements are sent in July, and annual statements are sent in January for the previous calendar year.



# WE GIVE *because* GOD GAVE FIRST

For God so loved the world that  
He gave his one and only Son . . .  
John 3:16

## THE GENERAL FUND

The Village Church at Shell Point is part of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (The Alliance), and is a separate entity which is financially and legally independent from Shell Point Retirement Community. All ministry and operational expenses are supported by gifts to the General Fund. Missions and benevolence programs are *not* supported by the General Fund.

## MISSIONS

We support the biblical call to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” by giving to The Great Commission Fund (GCF). Unique to The Alliance, the GCF underwrites the ministries and salaries of our denomination’s more than 700 international workers and U.S. church planters, empowering them to focus on making disciples and extend the love of Jesus to suffering and marginalized people. The GCF creates gospel access among the least-reached peoples in the United States and more than 70 countries throughout the world. The Village Church strives to give an amount equal to 50% of General Fund giving to Missions giving every year.

## THE BENEVOLENT FUND

Giving to the benevolent fund supports local and regional ministries and emergency needs. The elected members of the Benevolence Board oversee and determine the distribution of contributions to ministries and charities we call community partners.

**Note:** Missions and Benevolent Fund expenses are not budgeted. Giving to these areas is above and beyond giving to the General Fund which supports budgeted operations and ministries.

## **DESIGNATED GIVING**

In addition to the General Fund, Missions (Great Commission Fund), and Benevolent Fund, the Ministry Council has authorized giving to the following designated funds:

### **AV Capital Improvements Fund**

Provides for approved media ministry audio visual and lighting capital improvement projects. Managed by the Ministry Council.

### **Bequests**

Provided through wills, trusts, and other estate planning, these gifts are most commonly given to the general benefit of the church. Managed by the Ministry Council.

### **Capital Improvements Fund**

Provides for approved capital improvement projects. Managed by the Ministry Council.

### **District Outreach / Church Multiplication Fund**

Supports the outreach ministry of The Alliance Southeast District to plant new churches throughout Florida and the Bahamas.

### **Healthcare Chaplaincy Endowment**

Helps support the Healthcare Chaplaincy program in the Larsen Health Center and assisted living facilities at Shell Point Retirement Community. Managed by the Ministry Council.

### **Knitters Anonymous**

Provides supplies for volunteers who knit/crochet handcrafted items to share with benevolent ministry organizations and veterans groups.

### **Memorial Gifts**

Provides support for special projects as approved by the Ministry Council.

### **Missionaries and Ministers Fund**

Assists otherwise qualified retired missionaries and pastors with the Shell Point entrance fee requirement. Requests are made by Shell Point to the church governing authority.

### **Shell Point Employee Benevolent Fund**

Provides funds to respond to urgent needs (i.e. unexpected car repairs, travel for funerals, eviction avoidance, family crisis, etc.) through grants to employees. Managed by the Shell Point's Director of Employee Ministries (Human Resources).



## **Tax Advantaged and Planned Giving**

There are a variety of ideas to consider that may have substantial tax advantages:

### **IRA Distributions**

Making required minimum distributions from an Individual Retirement Account, directly to the church. (Under current tax law this may reduce taxable income.)

### **Gifts of Appreciated Assets**

Donating long-term appreciated securities (including stocks, bonds, and real estate).

### **Wills and Trusts**

Leaving a portion of your estate to the church through a will or trust. Bequests are commonly made to the general benefit of the church.

### **Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Trusts**

Setting aside assets for the benefit of the church or other charitable organizations. The type would depend on individual priorities, such as how and when the charity would receive the gift, the type of assets donated, and tax considerations.

### **Donor Advised Funds**

Giving through a personal charitable investment account with current and longer term tax advantages.

### **Life Insurance/Retirement Accounts**

Naming the church as a beneficiary on an insurance policy or retirement account.

***Always consult with your own tax, legal or accounting advisors before making any decision.***

Please contact Karen Solomon, Director of Church Operations at 239-454-2147 with any questions regarding giving to the church.

Professional financial and wealth planning services are offered locally by The Legacy Foundation at Shell Point and through The Christian and Missionary Alliance's financial stewardship ministry, Orchard Alliance.

**The point is this:  
whoever sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly,  
and whoever sows bountifully  
will also reap bountifully.  
Each one must give as he  
has decided in his heart,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.  
And God is able to make  
all grace abound to you,  
so that having all sufficiency  
in all things at all times,  
you may abound in  
every good work.**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**



***Building a community of forgiveness, purpose and hope in Jesus Christ***

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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Friday