

Newfi Consecration Sunday

This is what the Lord says-- he who created you. O Jacob, he who formed you. O Israel: fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

October 15, 2009

Dear Teenage Member,

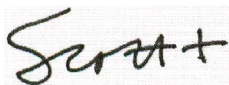
On Sunday, October 18th, during our *New Consecration Sunday* celebration, all members of Good Shepherd (16 and older) will receive a pledge packet for our Annual Commitment Campaign for 2010. You will have time to take your packet home, pray over your financial commitment to Good Shepherd for next year, and return it in the mail by November 1st.

I know that it may seem bold to challenge you to make a pledge to your church but no matter what amount it is, it is never too early to develop a discipline to give back to God a portion of all that God has given you. **It** doesn't have to be much. I know that your income may be nothing, and that you have many demands on any income you may have. But the truth of the matter is that this is always going to be the case in life. Some of you have summer jobs or other ways of earning income. To be sure you will be saving for your education, but it is so important to start early in reminding yourself that all we have in life is a gift from God and returning a small portion of it to the building of God's kingdom is a blessing in return. I encourage you to think about the many ways in which you have been blessed by God.

If you have some income consider giving a percentage of it to the church. Choose a percentage, any percentage! Say you have a summer job or baby sitting job, or some other way to earn some form of income, what if you were to give 2% of every penny you earned back to God? This is called **Proportional Giving**. Simply put, Proportional Giving is consciously knowing what percentage of your annual income you are giving to the work of building the Kingdom of God. The Stewardship Commission has provided you some tools in your pledge packet to help you make these calculations. If you were to pledge \$25.00 to Good Shepherd for the whole year, that would be a start.

No matter what, the most important thing is to give with joy. Don't do it out of guilt, or fear, or because you want to please your parents, or me, or anything else. Do it because you are thankful for God's love toward you. There is no other reason to give and give with joy.

By Grace,



Scott White, Rector



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