

Temple talk 2023 May

**How did you learn about giving? Who taught you?**

When I was 15 and newly confirmed, everyone in my confirmation class was given our personal box of offering envelopes.

I'm not sure when tithing was discussed. It could have been a confirmation topic. It may have been a stewardship program in the congregation. For sure my parents practise was weekly and a planned percentage of income. Although I don't recall that they talked about it, I was aware that it was a priority even when money was short.

In any case, the box of offering envelopes inspired me to commit to regular giving: my weekly allowance plus ten percent of what I earned babysitting. That was an easy start: in 1970, it seldom amounted to more than a dollar a week.

Because I had learned the habit of regular percentage giving, even when I started earning an actual full-time wage after university, it was not difficult to continue. In tricky times, like taking an unpaid sabbatical, being unemployed, marrying someone who did not have that practise, it was more challenging and not always possible.

I've found that the practice of regular giving helps me understand what my priorities are. It also helps to review my spending of resources. Where does my time go? How do my gifts benefit others? Does my spending reflect what I value and what has been given to me?