

GIVE REAL ESTATE

Land, rental properties, or any other type of real estate can be given and may provide additional tax savings.

SELL YOUR TANGIBLE PROPERTY

Jewelry, antiques, coins, and other collectibles can be sold, and the proceeds can be added to your giving. Be sure to use a reputable buyer and research the value of what you are selling.

HAVE YOUR OWN EBAY AUCTION OR CRAIGSLIST SALE

Valuables and “in-demand” household or personal items can be sold online through eBay, Craigslist, or another reliable site.

USE THE FUNDS FROM A PAID-OFF LOAN

After you have fully paid off a debt, give an amount equal to the payment as a multi-year commitment. This sum will already have been a part of your budget and has been proven to be affordable.

CASH IN UNNEEDED LIFE INSURANCE OR DRAW ON ITS CASH VALUE

If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for your financial planning purposes, or if you have a policy that has excess cash value, consider giving some or all of this cash value. In some cases, it may be possible to do this and keep your policy in force. *(Note: This applies primarily to “whole life” insurance policies, not term. Consult your insurance agent and/or financial advisor for details.)*

“I had a baseball card collection appraised at \$500. It was an easy decision for me to give the money instead of keeping the cards.”

REFINANCE YOUR HOME MORTGAGE TO LOWER YOUR INTEREST RATE

If current interest rates are lower than your existing mortgage, refinancing could significantly lower your monthly payment and, therefore, increase your giving capacity. *(Note: Central Community Church does NOT recommend extending the loan term, borrowing additional sums, or any other strategy that would increase the total cost of the loan.)*

DON'T MISS OUT ON TAX BREAKS

Tax credits for energy-efficient improvements, child care, college tuition, and other credits/deductions can generate significant tax savings to those eligible.

INCREASE INCOME

GIVE YOUR RAISES AND BONUSES

Commit to live at your current lifestyle for the next several years and to give any additional income that you earn.

REQUEST OVERTIME

If you are fortunate enough to have a job where overtime is possible, consider taking advantage of it.

COMMIT UNFORESEEN INCOME

Make a list of all of your anticipated income. Commit to give anything that comes in that was not expected. See what God does!

PERFORM ACTS OF SERVICE

Include your kids! Lawn mowing, snow shoveling, childcare, etc. Do not be shy to market your availability and let others know that you plan to give your earnings.

LOOK AT PART-TIME JOBS

If you are currently not working by choice or just have extra time, look into part-time opportunities that could provide an income stream. The giving potential can be considerable, and it creates excellent witnessing opportunities.

OFFER TO TUTOR, TO GIVE MUSIC LESSONS, OR TO TEACH A CLASS

Share your skills, gifts, and interests while helping someone else grow.

INCREASE \$1 PER MONTH

This is an excellent idea for children or anyone who is not currently giving. Simply start by giving \$1 during the first month. Then, give \$2 the second month, \$3 the third, etc. Keep seeking God's help to find an extra dollar per month. If you keep this up for three years, you will be able to give more than \$650.

“I was sure that I could never give a tithe. Trying this gradual approach, though, showed me that I could do it. I'm now giving nearly 15%.”

WORK TOWARD A TITHE

If you do not tithe now, set a plan in motion toward doing so. Take your current giving percentage and add 1% each month until you reach 10%. God tells us to test Him in this (Mal. 3:10). Try it and see what He does!

MAKE YOUR CREDIT CARD WORK FOR YOU

Try using a credit card with a cash back program to pay your bills and make purchases. Give the cash reward. *(Note: Central Community Church ONLY recommends this strategy for those with a proven track record of fully paying off the card monthly and incurring NO interest.)*

REDUCE EXPENSES

KNOW WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

The first step in reducing expenses is to track how you spend your money. For 30 days, keep track of every dollar you spend and put your expenses into categories.

CREATE A BUDGET

After tracking your expenses, use the information to create a budget. Pay close attention to groceries, entertainment, restaurants, and other budget-busters. Make tithing and giving a priority in your budget.

DEFER UNNECESSARY PURCHASES

Avoid impulse buying. Write a list of items you want to buy that exceed a certain dollar limit (i.e. \$50 or \$100). Wait 30 days before purchasing anything on the list. After the wait, you will discover that many wants are no longer needs.

AUDIT YOUR CELL PHONE BILL

Get a detailed billing and review it carefully. Make sure your plan is best suited to your usage.

CUT DOWN ON TRANSPORTATION COSTS

The annual cost of maintaining a car (along with licensing, insurance, and depreciation) is substantial. Consider carpooling, public transportation, or walking/biking as alternatives. Combine errands into as few trips as possible.

BUY LESS EXPENSIVE GOODS OR GENERIC BRANDS

More expensive items do not always deliver higher quality. You are often paying for image and marketing. Look for generic brands. Good value may cost less than what you think.

REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN'T SHOP YOUR WAY INTO PROSPERITY

Remind yourself that when you purchase an item for \$150 (which normally costs \$200), you didn't save \$50. You spent \$150. Make sure you need what you buy, regardless of how good the sale is.

ECONOMIZE YOUR VACATIONS

Great vacations can be found closer to home and often for less money. Visit travelks.com for ideas.

SPEND LESS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Spend time in nature, at local attractions, or simply stay at home as a couple or family. You will grow closer.

VISIT THE LIBRARY

Free entertainment that is educational, too! Borrow books, magazines, DVDs, video games, and e-books.

GO OUT TO EAT LESS OFTEN

Dining out consumes more of a budget than most people realize. A family of four dining at a fast-food restaurant once a week for three years will spend almost \$4,000. Try skipping a purchased meal and give an amount equal to the cost. Brown-bag it to work.

STOP PAYING FOR WATER

Purchasing one case of bottled water per week for three years costs nearly \$625. Filter your own tap water and use a refillable water bottle. The water is just as “pure” and keeps plastic out of the landfill.

SKIP A SODA OR A COFFEE

Giving up three sodas or specialty coffees each week for three years could range from \$250 to nearly \$1,800!

“We clip coupons every week and use them at a store that doubles the values. We have been able to give several hundred dollars more each year than we planned.”

USE COUPONS

Food is one of the largest household expenses each month. Taking time to clip coupons can save \$10-\$20 a week, which over three years, can add up to more than \$3,000.

SAVE ELECTRONICALLY

Many online vendors provide digital coupons. Get out your smartphone. No scissors needed. Google “coupons” for options.

SUBTRACT A SUBSCRIPTION

Cancel a magazine subscription and look for it at the library. Cancel the newspaper and get your news online.

CREATIVE GIFT GIVING

Purchasing Christmas, birthday, and other gifts in advance enables you to take advantage of sale prices. For the creative type, make your own presents and cards.

SCALE BACK ON TV

Home entertainment is no longer “one-size-fits-all.” Numerous streaming options provide creative ways to save on your monthly television and cable costs.