

**NORTH ROCKS COMMUNITY CHURCH
THANKSGIVING OFFERING 2011**

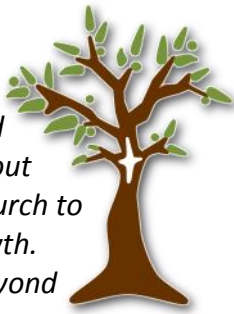


**GROWTH
THROUGH
GIVING**

Growth through Giving

Our Vision this year is to grow - to grow in our knowledge and relationship with God and to grow as a community. Throughout the year we have been encouraging those connected to our church to invest and participate in different activities to stimulate growth. Another way in which we can encourage growth within and beyond our church is through the giving of our time, energy and money.

The reality is that the more resources we have the more ministry and mission can happen. As a church we have been so grateful for the different generous givers who have resourced our mission and ministry over the past 63 years and we pray that our current congregations will continue to generously give so that together we can continue to run programs and new initiatives to share the love of Jesus and help people to grow.



When I give money to the church, where does it go?

- **Your giving provides for our facilities** - the church, office, manse, meeting rooms ... your giving help provide and maintain the space and resources so that people can gather for the many different activities that happen on our property each week.



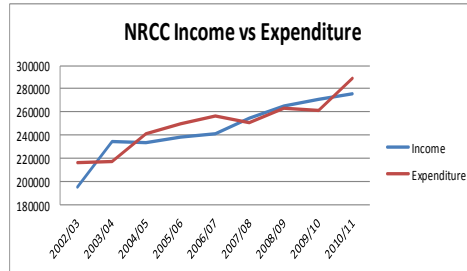
- **Your giving enables the work of our ministry team** - the work of Phil, Ann-Elise, Jan and the administration staff are only possible because your giving supports it. Every church service, every sacrament celebrated, every newsletter published, every act of service, every act of care is enabled by your giving.

- **Your giving empowers the carrying out of our mission** - of sharing the love, hope and compassion of Jesus with those in need locally, nationally and around the world. God is using our church, our missionaries, and our denomination to transform lives and communities. Your giving empowers this to happen in an even greater way.



Is there a problem with our finances? Has our giving gone down recently?

No. As the graph shows each year for the past 9 years our giving has increased (thanks to people like you). The problem lies in that our expenses have also increased. In the past 9 years, the only time our income has exceeded our expenses has been when a staff member has left. Our treasurer and church



council in being faithful stewards of the money we receive have reduced all our costs to a minimum however this has meant that new initiatives or capital expenditure has been difficult to resource. We have attempted to improve this in two ways ... to encourage people to increase their regular giving to the church and through special donations such as the Thanksgiving Offering. It has been people's generosity in these two areas that has made the biggest difference in our church's ministry and mission over the past 5 years.

We encourage you to read through this brochure and prayerfully consider how you might help the church growth through your giving - both your giving on Thanksgiving Sunday and also consider increasing your regular giving. If you would like to know more about regular giving or information on "direct giving", please speak to our Iain Thompson or contact the church office.

Are there Different ways of Giving?

- 1) **Direct Credit.** Arrange with your bank to transfer on a regular basis to the NRCC bank account.
- 2) **Direct Giving.** Authorise Uniting Church Financial Services to deduct an amount on a regular basis from your bank account and credit it to NRCC
- 3) **Internet Transfer.** Transfer on a regular basis via the internet to NRCC bank account
- 4) **Salary Sacrifice.** Pre or Post tax deduction from your wages. Arrange with your pay office to pay direct into NRCC account.
- 5) **Envelope System.** Weekly dated envelopes and contribute through the collection plate during the worship service
- 6) **Collection Plate.** Make your contributions through the collection plate during the worship service
- 7) **Special Donations / Thanksgiving Offering.** One-off sacrificial giving to specific NRCC mission and ministry projects.

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church

Branch (BSB): 634634

For regular giving (eg Fortnight/Monthly Tithe) use account Number: 100025906

For one-off giving (eg Thanksgiving Sunday) use account Number: 100016305

Thanksgiving Offering 2011

For the past 5 years, our congregations have set aside a special Sunday for the purpose of reflecting on God's amazing goodness to us as a church and as individuals. This has included a special thanksgiving offering to help resource new mission initiatives within and beyond our church.

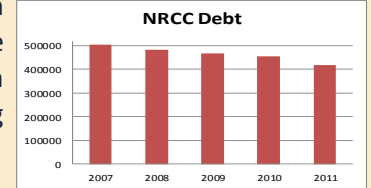
Those 5 offerings have raised nearly \$80,000 - from which we have been able to repay \$60,000 off our loans and do important property improvements such as the kitchen, fencing and soft-fall to help protect our kids. We have also used some of the offering to help initiate new mission and outreach ideas with our children and youth.

*This year we are proposing a number of different ways in which you might like to give on Thanksgiving Sunday. We encourage you to read through this brochure and prayerfully consider which response might be right for you, then join us on **Sunday 18th September** at either our morning (9am) or evening (7pm) worship services to give thanks to God in our worship, in our actions and in our giving.*



Debt Reduction

Our church has been blessed with a great church and site for our ministry and mission to the community. The purchase of "136 North Rocks Rd" seven years ago has allowed us to continue to grow our ministry. However it meant that our debt ballooned out to a little over \$500,000. As a church we would like to move into the future with hope, free from the restrictions that such a large debt places on ministry and mission. We are also aware that our current church and preschool buildings will need some major work (possibly even new buildings) in the next 10-20 years. Over the past 4 years, through regular payments from church council and generous donations in the thanksgiving offering, we have reduced this debt to \$420,000.



Church Council's goal is that we will completely pay off our loans 10-20 years, freeing future generations of church worshippers from the yearly \$43,000 interest burden and allowing them to grow future ministry with confidence. A great start to this would be to reduce our debt to under \$400,000 by the end of this year. Can you consider a special one-off large donation to help make this happen?

Project #1 - Debt Reduction

To continue to reduce our debt
with the goal of being under \$400,000 by Christmas.

Investing in our property

The church owns two different properties. The main property at 132-136 North Rocks Rd includes the church (132), office (134) and the newly renovated meeting space (136). The church also owns a residential home in Andrew Place which is used as the Manse (where the minister lives).

Over the past 5 years we have invested extra resources into our church properties to make them more missional. Some of the improvements have been:

- Construction of the fence around the church and softfall to help protect our kids at playgroup, BUGZ, Kids Klub and church.
- Construction of the new driveway to improve car-flow on the church property
- Renovation of the church kitchen
- Recarpeting/painting of two rooms in the church office
- New air-conditioning in the church
- Renovation of 136 to make it suitable for meeting and groups

While some of this has been funded through the property team budget, many of these improvements have come through special donations and the Thanksgiving offering.



The property team and church council have highlighted three additional property projects which need an investment of capital to continue to make our church space functional. They are:

- 1) **Manse Repairs.** Most churches leave the significant manse repairs for the period in between ministers. As Phil has been with us for 7½ years and is not planning to leave anytime soon, now is a good time to do some manse maintenance. This will include painting, repairs on the back deck and solving some of the storage issues.
- 2) **New Church Sign.** You may have noticed our church sign has been “weathered” and is in need of replacement and new lighting added.
- 3) **Young Rocks Classroom Renovations.** After the amazing transformation of the meeting rooms in 136, the 134 YoungRocks classroom (as well as Jan’s office) looks a little tired and in need of new carpet & paint.

The amount of money donated to this project will determine how much can be achieved.

Project #2 - Investing in our property.

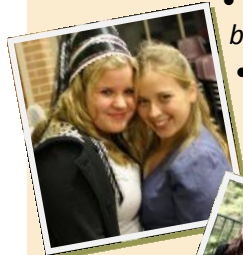
Manse repairs, new church sign
and YoungRocks classroom renovation.

Investing in our future

Our church is known in the community for our children and youth ministry and the creative way that we initiate, participate and support local and global mission. Recent examples include the starting of a new youthgroup “Ozone”, 1200 people attending the Carols by Candlelight, 13 people travelling to Cambodia to help share Jesus and transform slum communities, and yet another one of our young people committing themselves to overseas mission.

Over the past 4 years, your generous giving through the Thanksgiving Offering has brought about tangible results, such as:

- *In 2010, five new youth leaders and eleven existing youth leaders being trained in our own year long youth leadership course.*
- *Helping resource our youth leaders to do a first-aid course.*
- *The purchasing of new resources which have been used in all our different children and youth groups.*
 - *Resourcing some of the creative elements of the preschool services*
 - *Running a week-long “WinterRocks” outreach to school aged children.*



Children, Youth & Mission

This year we would like to set up a scheme for people to participate in short term ministry or mission placement (STMP). The idea is based on internship/gap year programs that are being run in other churches. As a church we would make places available for lay people to commit for a specific period of time to work as a ministry team member on a specific project. A STMP would be similar to the relationship between staff and a student minister, there would be boundaries on the length of commitment, the hours expected and the support given with clear expectations outlined. Each placement would be different but would incorporate:

- *Practical Outcomes– specific tasks, goals or ministry project involved*
- *Mentoring relationship – alongside a staff member*
- *Formal Instructive – some sense of formal teaching*

These places would not be a paid ministry position, however we would need to support volunteers in this role through subsidising travel, phone, resources and training. We have already two people ready to start STMP including a young person from Kiribati. Our hope is that donations through the Thanksgiving Offering will allow us to resource and start this program. If we have more funds than needed, they will be allocated to new mission, leadership or youth initiatives.

**Project #3 - Investing in our Future
Short Term Ministry Placement / Internship Project.
New Leadership, Mission & Youth Initiatives.**

Other Projects / Unallocated

Thanksgiving offering is not just about investing in the areas which the ministry team and church council have presented in this brochure, it can also be about you investing in the areas which you are passionate about ... or even giving a donation which has no allocation - allowing it to be given in the areas which funds are needed the most ... or even in an area which has not even been thought of yet but might arise over the next 12 months.

Over the past 4 years, people have given specifically for things such as:

- *Music ministry - copyright licences and new musical equipment*
- *Buying new technology - such as a laptop for ministry staff or microphones for worship*
- *Contributing towards our overseas missionaries*
- *New cups for the youth groups*

If you would like to give in this way, on the donation envelope please detail clearly where you would like your donation to go, or leave it blank for your gift to be allocated where needed.

Project #4 - Investing in your Passion

Please list clearly where you would like your donation to go, or leave it blank for your gift to be allocated where needed.



Operation Christmas Child is a program which supplies shoe boxes full of Christmas presents to children around the world. Boxes are available at the church or you can use a shoe box of your own. Brochures with information about what to pack and how to pack a gift box and box labels are also available. Particular points to note are that Samaritan's Purse request no toothpaste or lollies, and also that all packaging be removed from items. Why not make up a box and bring it along on Thanksgiving Sunday as a way of giving back to God in a spirit of Thanksgiving!

For more information about this project you can also go to the Samaritan's Purse website at www.samaritanaspurse.org.au or see the brochures at the church



How to give to our Thanksgiving Offering

If you would like to invest in God's vision and mission through this Thanksgiving offering there are 2 easy ways of doing this

- (1) You can place your donation in the enclosed envelope, marking on the front of the envelope which project you wish to invest in and place it in the special offering on Thanksgiving Sunday (18th September). If you cannot make it to church on that day, you can place it in the normal offering anytime.*
- (2) You can do an Internet Bank Transfer to the church account (and label it whatever project you wish it go to).*

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*If you would like to talk to someone more about Thanksgiving Sunday, donations, bequests or regular giving to the church, please ring the church on **96832586** or email **the.office@northrocks.org.au** and they will arrange for someone from the ministry team or church council to come and met with you.*

Information about direct giving, internet transfer and envelopes are also available through the church office.

North Rocks Community Church

2011 Thanksgiving Offering Envelope

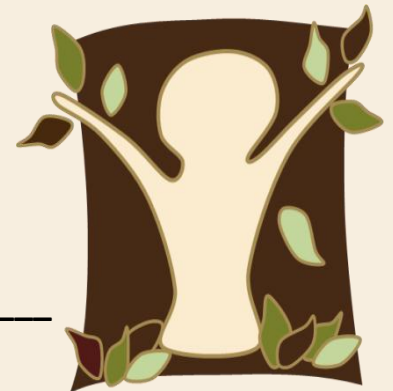
Please use the envelope below to indicate where you would like your Thanksgiving Offering to be directed towards. If there is no envelope (or you need more than one) please collect another at the back of the church.

North Rocks Community Church

2011 Thanksgiving Offering

I would like to give my special Thanksgiving Offering towards:

- 1. Debt Reduction**
- 2. Investing in our Property**
- 3. STMP / Internship Scheme**
- Other:** _____
- Unallocated**





NORTH ROCKS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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