

Local Church Budget

Let's give for the right reasons. In 1939, U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the behest of the retail lobby, decided to change the American* Thanksgiving Day from its traditional date to one week earlier. The retail community was worried that the short shopping season would have a negative effect on the still fragile economy, and the president was trying to help stimulate it. Several states celebrated the original Thanksgiving Day. About half of the states decided to keep the new, earlier version of the holiday. Disruption, confusion, and acrimony led Congress to pass a law that cemented Thanksgiving Day to its original fourth Thursday of November.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving Day, let us recount all of the blessings that we have received from God in this past year. And when we sit down and plan our systematic giving to our local church, let us remember to give for the right reasons. Let us give with a grateful heart. Scripture tells us that God "loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Today our offering goes to the local church budget. When we give for the right reasons, cheerfully, with a love-filled heart, God will bless us abundantly.

**Thanksgiving is celebrated in Canada on the second Monday in October.*