

# Shadow Rock, > Today

Last week I asked you to spend some time in prayer and meditation about stewardship. I mentioned sacrificial giving. This is a hard one -- *Sacrificial Giving*. This is a term I learned as I grew up in Episcopal churches. I think it is often lost in society today. Sacrificial giving does not mean tithing (although for some this is a worthy goal) or giving up the necessities of life. It does mean asking if the time and money you spend on other things might be better spent in furtherance of God's goals. As an example, my wife curtailed trips to Starbuck's (one of her favorite pleasures) because she decided that money could be better used for Shadow Rock's ministries. How many of us could cut back on some small luxuries and increase our pledge to Shadow Rock by a like amount? Asking ourselves to sacrifice a little pleasure so we may help Shadow Rock achieve our mission is not easy. Instead of spending an evening at a movie, could you instead use that time to assist in one of those important efforts?

Many congregations use the term "sacrificial giving" to manipulate people into giving more money. The sales pitch is often connected to a promise of a heavenly and monetary benefit for increasing your pledge. This is not our theology and it is not our appeal. There is no promise that you will magically get back your money or the additional time spent helping Shadow Rock. What we can be certain of is this: the rewards for sacrifice are unbounded, and cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The rewards include the joy of making a difference in the life of another, healing in our society, and the assurance that lives will be saved or changed.

So now I ask you *to be greater*, to make Shadow Rock *greater*, to help fulfill the missions and goals that we see on the horizon. On Pledge Sunday, please help make Shadow Rock UCC *greater than* it is today.

Faithfully,



Scott A. Richter  
Stewardship Chairman '09-'10  
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