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The Rev. Michael D. Moore, pastor of Faith Chapel Christian Center, preached about generosity, and the church gave \$10 each to church members to perform an act of generosity.

Faith Chapel hands out \$26,000 to sow charity

By Greg Garrison
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Faith Chapel Christian Center in Wylam gave away \$26,000 to churchgoers on Sept. 18 as part of its "Just Be Generous" eight-week sermon series, with members given \$10 each in an envelope with instructions to find a way to creatively give it away and

spread blessings.

"They were asked to spread it around the community and perform acts of generosity," said Antoinette Mays, a church staff member.

Michael K. Moore, executive director of finance at Faith Chapel, came up with the

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idea for the money give-away.

"My dad, Pastor Michael D. Moore, was teaching a series on generosity," Moore said. "We wanted people to know God doesn't bless us just for ourselves, he wants us to be a channel of blessings for others. We didn't want to just teach them a lesson. We wanted them to put in practice what they were learning. That was the inspiration, to make it practical."

The "reverse offering" came with some rules. "We told them they couldn't use it on themselves, and they couldn't give it back to the church," Moore said.

Members were also asked to describe how they used the money. The church made a video with testimonies from members and showed it during the service on Oct. 9.

A page on the church's website, www.faithchapel.net/jbgtellyourstory, lists some of the ways members used the money.

One member gave the \$10 to a homeless man who asked for food.

Another member said she added \$100 to the \$10 and left it for a woman in need. "She was crying and said that she had been praying to God for the money to get her medicine. She is a widow on a fixed income and does not get enough to take care of all of her monthly expenses."

Another wrote of giving the \$10 to a grandmother raising two children. "It brought her to tears."

"I added \$40 to my envelope and shared it with a friend who lost his job this summer to cover a bill," another wrote.

"I was able to bless a colleague who has been on leave without pay while addressing medical issues," one church member wrote. "She was deeply touched."

Moore said the campaign successfully stimulated a generous spirit of giving.

"The results were great," he said. "I think it had the impact we wanted. We

wanted it to help create a lifestyle of generosity. I think it had that effect."