



# Time & Talent: Focusing on the “Other T’s”

## Best Practices

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# Learning Objectives

- ▶ Whole Giving = holistic giving
- ▶ Benefits and Challenges of Volunteering
- ▶ How do we ask for our members to share their talents?
- ▶ Recognition and Gratitude

*Introduction*



# To Tithe or not to Tithe?

- ▶ Much of our teaching about the concept of tithing comes from the Torah
  - ▶ *All tithes from the land...they are holy to the Lord. Leviticus 27:30*
  - ▶ *...you must present a tenth of that tithe as the Lord's offering. Numbers 18:26*
  - ▶ *...set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Deuteronomy 14:22*



*Giving our Treasure*

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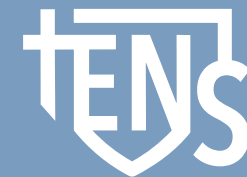
# To Tithe or not to Tithe?

► Finish the Offertory sentence ...

“All things come of thee, O Lord ...”



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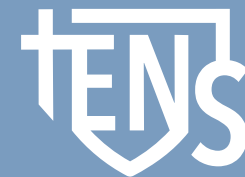
# To Tithe or not to Tithe?

- ▶ Now, let's flip the script

*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. Matthew 23:23*



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# To Tithe or not to Tithe?

- ▶ Finish the Offertory Sentence ...
- ▶ *“Walk in Love as Christ Loved us ...”*



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# To Tithe or not to Tithe?

- ▶ What do we notice between the law and the spirit of the law?
- ▶ What does Jesus think of "just tithing?"

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

– Matthew 22: 15-22

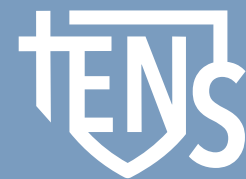
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# To Tithe or not to Tithe?

- ▶ Our gifts of Treasure barely scratch the surface of what God asks of us
- ▶ We are called to go out into the world and change and heal and fix and love
- ▶ We need more than our money to do this, we are all in for the Gospel – Christians don't just tithe, they give 100%



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# The Other T's: Time and Talent

- ▶ **No Stewardship program is complete without equally emphasizing our time and talent.** If we focus just on our financial gifts, we are missing the **most important** ways that Christians can engage the work of the Church.
- ▶ Our money funds mission, and the **mission is the work**, the real work, of the Church.
- ▶ Develop **holistic stewardship ministries** that also highlight how we volunteer and share our ideas and wisdom



*The Other T's: Time*



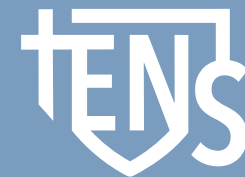
# Volunteering builds Community

*Volunteering Connects you to others*

- ▶ One of the better-known benefits of volunteering is the impact on the community. Unpaid volunteers are often **the glue that holds a community** together.
- ▶ Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and **make it a better place**. Even helping with the smallest tasks can make a real difference.



*The Other T's: Time*



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# Volunteering builds Community

*Volunteering Helps you make Friends*

- ▶ One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to **commit to a shared activity** together. Volunteering is a great way to **meet new people**, especially if you are new to an area.
- ▶ Volunteering also **strengthens your ties to the community** and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with common interests, neighborhood resources, and fun and fulfilling activities.



*The Other T's: Time*

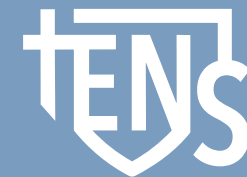
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# Volunteering builds Community

## *Volunteering Builds Social & Relationship Skills*

- ▶ While some people are naturally outgoing, others are shy and have a hard time meeting new people.
- ▶ Volunteering gives you the opportunity to **practice and develop your social skills**, since you are meeting regularly with a group of people with common interests.
- ▶ Once you have momentum, it's **easier to branch out and make more friends and contacts**.

*The Other T's: Time*



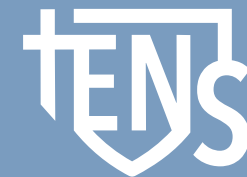
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# Volunteering Brings you Closer to God

- ▶ People came to know Jesus first by his radical service toward them, and then through serving others in his name.
- ▶ Jesus: *“If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do”*  
John 13: 14-15
- ▶ In serving others, we not only model Jesus, but also meet Jesus in those we serve. We encounter Jesus’ love as we share our lives with those we set out to serve.



*The Other T's: Time*



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# Volunteering Is Good for You

- ▶ Volunteering can help us reconnect with parts of ourselves that get left behind in the rush of a regular day.
  - ▶ commit to being in a time and a place where we pause
  - ▶ put away our phones
  - ▶ engage with other people or a certain task.
  - ▶ step out of ourselves and reflect on how we are living and how that impacts others.
- ▶ Volunteering grows virtue in the most practical of ways
  - ▶ Develop patience
  - ▶ Hone our compassion and kindness
  - ▶ Become more prudent with what we have when we see others with less than we have



*The Other T's: Time*

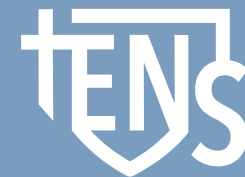
# What Talents do I have to give?

## *Questions to ask*

- ▶ What's a task or role that comes easily to me?
- ▶ What am I good at?
- ▶ Where did I excel in school?
- ▶ What's something I don't have to work to be good at because I just *am* good at it?
- ▶ What do my coworkers compliment me on most often?
- ▶ If someone asked my friends what I do really well, what would they say?
- ▶ What do I bring to a team?
- ▶ What are my biggest character strengths?

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/personal-growth/using-your-god-given-talents>

*The Other T's: Talent*



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# What Talents do I have to give?

## *Traps to avoid*

- ▶ **Overselling Your Talent**
  - ▶ It's not a sales pitch, neither is it a competition. We want to ensure that we are authentic when describing our talents
- ▶ **Getting too specific**
  - ▶ Find the way that your specific passion has a lesson or a skill that can be harnessed to help others
- ▶ **Thinking too little of yourself**
  - ▶ This is our greatest trap: telling ourselves that what we have to offer isn't needed, wanted, or relevant.
  - ▶ There is someone out there who needs exactly what you can offer. Find the way to connect

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/personal-growth/using-your-god-given-talents>

*The Other T's: Talent*



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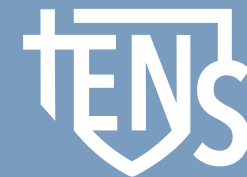


# Developing our Gifts

- ▶ Thank God for your gifts
- ▶ Pray for Guidance – how can God use your gifts?
- ▶ Practice your skill and craft – we want to present our best gifts to help the people of God
- ▶ Study
  - ▶ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:14*
  - ▶ *Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from God. James 1:17*
- ▶ Share



*The Other T's: Talent*

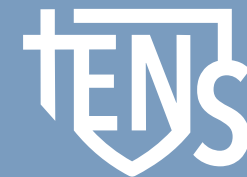


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# Recognize the Gifts of Time and Talent

Your members are the key of your mission

- ▶ **Recognize** volunteers
- ▶ **Thank them!**
- ▶ **Present new opportunities** for engagement
  - ▶ Formation (upcoming classes or series)
  - ▶ Volunteering (programs that need more help)
  - ▶ Ministries (recruit for guilds and activities)



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*Recognition*

# Time is Money ...

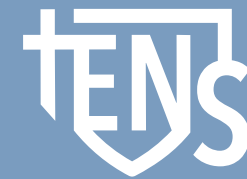
- ▶ Your Volunteers provide service, support, and programs that enable your ministry to function. Without volunteers we would not be able to do much of what we can accomplish.
- ▶ If you had to pay your volunteers a living wage and benefits ...

*Nationally: \$33.40 / hr*

*New Jersey: \$35.50 / hr*

<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>

*Recognition*



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# TENS Theme for 2024

When we walk in love, there is clarity and purpose. We move in alignment with each other and with our values. Walking in love is also something we cannot do alone - by definition it implies connection, community.

Whether we walk with our children or our spouse, or form an orderly line, or rely on the help of a friend or a neighbor, we carry with us all with whom we are in communion and they carry us with them. Our journey is one made by millions, over thousands of years: a cycle of sharing and invitation.

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*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.. **Ephesians 5: 1-2, NRSV***

*Keeping the Conversation Going*





Thank you!

For more information, resources, and videos,  
find us at [www.tens.org](http://www.tens.org)

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