



Year-Round Stewardship Formation

Best Practices

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Learning Objectives

- ▶ Learn how to separate Stewardship from Fundraising
- ▶ Grow Generosity
- ▶ Build out a calendar of Stewardship-focused activities

Introduction

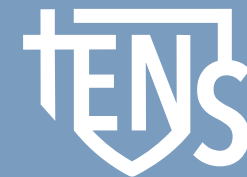


Stewardship is Separate from Fundraising

- ▶ Wait? What?! If Stewardship isn't about fundraising, what is it?
 - ▶ How we create impact in our community
 - ▶ A way to think about all our resources
 - ▶ Our training and learning
 - ▶ Our effort and work-product
 - ▶ Our spending and saving
 - ▶ Our wisdom and our teaching
 - ▶ Our relationships with each other



Separating Stewardship from Fundraising



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Stewardship is Separate from Fundraising

- ▶ Creating Impact in Community
 - ▶ Throughout the year, find ways to report on the success, challenges, and changes in your programs / ministries
 - ▶ Highlight one a month, or one a quarter
 - ▶ Bring in stories, interviews, videos
 - ▶ Measure in metrics
 - ▶ “Together, we’ve fed 1,000 people so far this year”
 - ▶ “Our after-school program served 20 kids last week, and will do so every week this year”



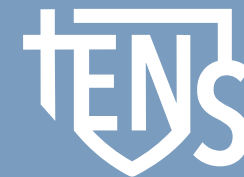
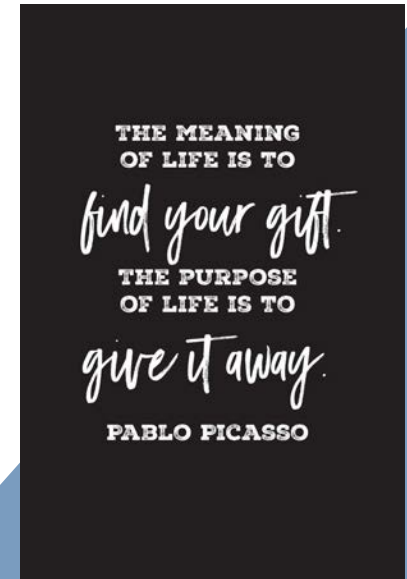
Separating Stewardship from Fundraising



Stewardship is Separate from Fundraising

- ▶ Everything we have been given, everything we have built, **everything we have is a tool for our stewardship**
 - ▶ How can the Church use my expertise or training?
 - ▶ How can the Church use my strength or my skills on a project?
 - ▶ Is there a class, group, workshop, or event I could lead or on which I could collaborate?
 - ▶ How can my finances help the Church?

Separating Stewardship from Fundraising

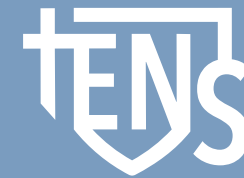


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Stewardship is Separate from Fundraising

- ▶ Stewardship is also about **relationship**
 - caring for each other
 - ▶ Are you talking with your church friends during the week? Maybe someone needs a call or an email.
 - ▶ Take the few minutes every day to pray for everyone on the congregation's prayer list by name
 - ▶ Send social media or email or text messages for members' birthdays and anniversaries
 - ▶ Can you provide help, advice, or a friendly ear to a church friend?

Separating Stewardship from Fundraising



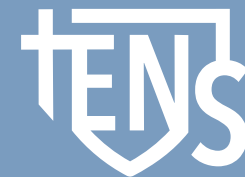
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Growing Generosity

- ▶ A skill that needs to be cultivated
 - ▶ Practice Gratitude
 - ▶ Power of positive thinking
 - ▶ Random acts

James 1:17 Every generous act and every perfect gift comes from above...

Generosity Practice



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Growing Generosity

▶ Gratitude

▶ Daily habit

- ▶ For what am I grateful today?
- ▶ When you see someone doing something nice or good, thank them for it – not personally, but on behalf of humanity

▶ Weekly habit

- ▶ Write an email to colleagues, employees, family, or friends thanking them for particular things they did
- ▶ Accept the gratitude of others toward you



Generosity Practice

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Growing Generosity

- ▶ Thinking positively
 - ▶ Assume Goodwill
 - ▶ Enter each situation expecting a positive outcome, anticipating that those around you are acting from a place of goodness
 - ▶ Assume others are practicing this too
 - ▶ Forgive yourself
 - ▶ Foibles, missteps, mistakes. Apologize, correct, and move forward
 - ▶ Banish jaded outlooks
 - ▶ Give second chances



Generosity Practice

Growing Generosity

▶ Random Acts

▶ Start Small

- ▶ Make an extra pan of lasagna for a sick friend
- ▶ Buy a cup of coffee for the next person in line
- ▶ Share your pocket change

▶ Join a Team

- ▶ Build the sets for the pageant
- ▶ Coach a team or run a youth event
- ▶ Work a phone bank

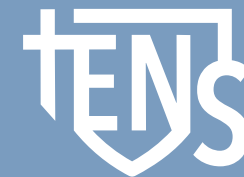
▶ Support a Cause

- ▶ Volunteer a Saturday in the soup kitchen
- ▶ Clean up the neighborhood

▶ Spread the Love

- ▶ Promote a church event to friends, coworkers, neighbors
- ▶ Give credit where it's due

Generosity Practice



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Year-Round Practices

A Year of Generous Living

Advanced

- ▶ Twelve months of stewardship themes
- ▶ Twelve months of stewardship activities

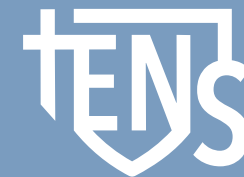
Intermediate

- ▶ A Liturgical Calendar of Stewardship themes

Beginner

- ▶ Three Simple Things you can do this year

Year-Round Practices



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Year-Round Practices: Monthly Themes



January: Telling our Stewardship Stories

February: Why do we give?

March: The power of our Money

April: Finding More from Less

May: Creating a plan to fix the world

June: Preparation for Pledge Season

July: Sharing with our neighboring congregations

August: Needs Assessment

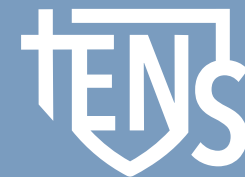
September: Pledge Season Pep Talk

October: St. Francis & the Environment

November: The Communion of Saints is the Original Legacy Society

December: Incarnate Gratitude

Year-Round Practices - Advanced



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Year-Round Practices

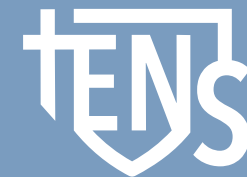
Make a Plan

- ▶ Download the TENS Toolkit for Year-Round Stewardship

<https://www.tens.org/resource-library/tools-best-practices/year-round-stewardship-planning-tools/>

- ▶ Instructions on how to create and incorporate stewardship formation for each year of the month
- ▶ A spreadsheet planning tool to make your plan and stick to it

Year-Round Practices - Advanced



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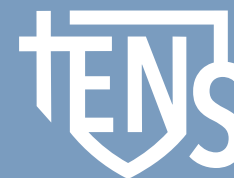
Year-Round Practices

Monthly Discipline

- ▶ Each month, set activities that reinforce, teach, & nurture abundance and generosity in your congregation
 - ▶ Spirituality
 - ▶ A focus that **all ministry areas** can adopt that month
 - ▶ Finance: An area of personal or organizational finance for **teaching or goal-setting**
 - ▶ The Environment
 - ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ Gratitude: A **ministry** that we make special effort to acknowledge
 - ▶ Event or Activity: Something **public-facing**

Year-Round Practices - Advanced

Month	Activity	Resources	Ministries	Publicity
December	Advent/Christmas	Theme: Preparing the Way		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
Spirituality	Preparation and Worship			
Focus Ministry	Children's Ministry - Stewardship of the Christ Child			
Finance	Advent Gift Market/Designated Giving & Year-End Gifts			
Environment	Paper Recycling Focus			
Outreach	Angel Tree for Underprivileged Children			
Gratitude	Vestry			
Event	IRA Awareness			
January	Epiphany	Theme: Light		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
Spirituality	Spiritual Disciplines			
Focus Ministry	Annual Meeting/Celebration of Ministry			
Finance	Debt Management			
Environment	Hazardous Materials Inventory			
Outreach	The Crisis Center			
Gratitude	Music Ministries			
Event	Year-End Statements and Thank You Notes			
February	Lent	Theme: Sacramental Life		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Ministries</i>	<i>Publicity</i>



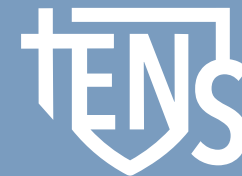
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Stewardship Themes & Activities – The Liturgical Calendar

- ▶ Advent: To a world longing for change, we focus on our **gratitude** for all we have received and **communicate our hope** for justice and peace
- ▶ Christmas: The greatest gifts are the ones we give to each other through our **faithful generosity and abundant love**.
- ▶ Epiphany: We focus on how we are **Christ's body in the world** as we manifest God in our lives, families, and work
- ▶ Lent: Dust to dust is a powerful reminder that **planned gifts** are an essential part of faith-based fundraising and giving.
- ▶ Easter: Our faith and our works are alive, just as Jesus lives. Renewed with joy and refreshed by the waters of Baptism, we can't help but **shout our Alleluias to a world longing for love**.
- ▶ Pentecost: Our faith scatters us in all directions as we bring **healing, feeding, comfort, teaching, faith, and love** to a hungry world.

Year-Round Practices - Intermediate

**TENS Provides
downloadable
seasonal reflections
in English and
Spanish to help you
set the tone**

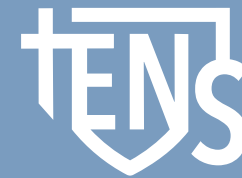


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Stewardship Themes & Activities – The Liturgical Calendar

- ▶ The Epiphany: What is the star that guides you in your ministry? **How does your faith inform your giving?**
- ▶ The Presentation: When you lift up your eyes to **glimpse the future of the Church**, what do you see?
- ▶ Ash Wednesday: If you had to give up everything you had, **would you still find yourself rich?**
- ▶ Rogation Days: What is our commitment to the Earth? How does our stewardship for **God's greatest gift** to us inform our generosity?
- ▶ Ascension: What gifts does your church need to **prepare** itself for future generations? To serve your neighbors?
- ▶ Transfiguration: If we truly saw the face of Jesus in each other, **how would we treat our neighbors?** How would we provide for their needs?
- ▶ All Saints: What are the lessons about giving and generosity that you have learned from **the saints in your life?**
- ▶ Your Patronal Feast: Who are the people who left legacies and planned gifts to your church? What will your legacy be?

In addition to the seasons of the Church year, the great feasts and fasts are good times to talk about stewardship. Use these conversation topics in small groups.



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Year-Round Practices - Intermediate

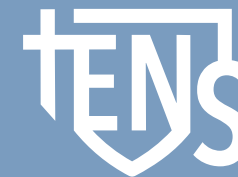
Theological Formation of Generosity

Generosity is a skill that is cultivated, formed through teaching, practice, and time.

"Like humility, generosity comes from seeing that everything we have and everything we accomplish comes from God's grace and God's love for us. ... Certainly it is from experiencing this generosity of God and the generosity of those in our life that we learn gratitude and to be generous to others."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, God Has a Dream

Year-Round Practices everyone can implement



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Theological Formation of Generosity

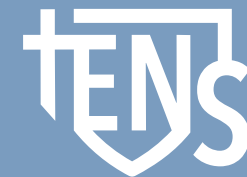
This year, try **these three things** to keep the conversation of stewardship and generosity alive in your congregation...

1. Offer a book study:

Henri Nouwen's [A Spirituality of Fundraising](#)

Charles Cloughen, Jr.'s [One Minute Stewardship: Creative ways to talk about money in church](#)

Year-Round Practices everyone can implement



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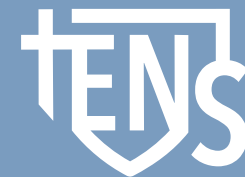
Theological Formation of Generosity

This year, try **these three things** to keep the conversation of stewardship and generosity alive in your congregation...

2. Conduct a mid-year Budget and Mission review, report on ministry objectives and impact

This tool, prepared with the wardens and treasurer, will help people understand the impact of their giving, reminding them that their gifts are important all year long.

Year-Round Practices everyone can implement



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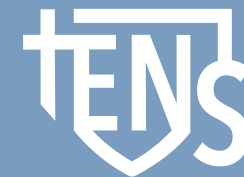
Theological Formation of Generosity

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3. Preach a Sermon on generosity in July.

Need help? TENS offers seasonal reflections on the lectionary and themes of generosity and gratitude. Download them for free

Year-Round Practices everyone can implement



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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.

*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, tools, webinars, and resources, visit www.tens.org

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