



TEMPLE TALK

from Terri Clark

**THIS TEMPLE TALK WAS SHARED DURING WORSHIP
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When Pete and I moved to Moneta, I wanted to find a church family with a heart for it's parishioners and community, that was open minded, and wanted to reflect Christ's love to all that entered its doors.

We visited TEP a few times when we were still living and working in Maryland and spending time at our lake home here at SML. Trinity was always a friendly and welcoming church, both the parishioners and pastors. As we spent more time at Trinity, I was particularly impressed with its guiding principles and the gracious and loving hearts of all involved. When I became a "born again" Christian in my 40's, I was so strongly connected to my church family at that time, that I felt it would be difficult to leave it. When my husband and I started attending a Lutheran church in our local neighborhood, I was emotionally and spiritually torn. I really loved and appreciated the new church and congregation, but it felt odd leaving my old church behind as it was the place that brought me to my faith. I spoke to my new pastor about this emotional decision, and he had such a wonderful response, it was simple and yet so very true: he said "Terri, the Lord can use you for His good here or wherever you are". It was a loving and kind reminder that we are one church, one body, working for His glory. I have felt His power in my life through TEP as well and I thank the Lord everyday for bringing me to this wonderful church home.

As I've settled into worshipping at TEP, I have had the good fortune to be involved with our Altar Guild ministry which has allowed me the wonderful gift of serving our pastors and congregation as well as has allowed me the opportunity to learn so much more about our liturgical year and history. I also serve as a member of the Stream Team and am so very blessed to be able to allow all of us to have a meaningful worship experience from home or when traveling. In fact, we joined TEP during the COVID shutdown and it was our streaming ministry that allowed us to be connected. I was also recently given the privilege to serve on our Parish Council, which has allowed me to have a much deeper understanding of our church's behind-the-scenes activities and commitments. All of these activities have connected me to aspects of TEP's many wonderful ministries and I marvel at our collective generous spirits that are so very far reaching.

So where do we learn generosity? I feel I was always blessed with a generous nature and fortunately that inclination was strongly fostered by the examples my Mom and step-Dad modeled for me which set me on solid path as I went into adulthood. My mother was one of the kindest people I've known, always willing to lend a hand, encouraging and loving. She had such an open mind to people and their hearts. When she remarried, my step-Dad was the same type of person, always coming to people's aid. I had only to look to their examples to know how I should conduct my life, and it has led me on a similar path. My heart, the Lord's heart and their examples have been a compelling pathway.

This desire to be generous has been easy to apply at TEP. Pete and I tithe because the Lord asks us to do so and additionally, we are further compelled to do so because we strongly believe in our church community and it's ministries and missions. By being generous with my time and money in support of TEP, I know that I am supporting a wonderful range of activities that the Lord has asked us to do. The ministry initiatives for 2025 are all wonderful examples of how our church supports The Church internally, locally, nationally and internationally and I am humbled to be a part of it all.

So in conclusion, my prayer is always that we stay strong in our commitment to the Lord's plans, ourselves as a church body and to the range of communities we are committed to helping. On the surface it seems simple, but I/we know that it can be challenging and takes commitment from all of us to be engaged and working together. I hope for myself to keep this in my heart and mind for the many years to come.