God was nudging me as I went for my morning run and felt I needed to act. I am a newer member to this church. Most of my life I attended a Methodist church and that is how my faith journey began. I was baptized, confirmed, and married in a Methodist church. I had some very wonderful pastors lead me on my journey with God. I grew up making mistakes that I know made God shake his head. I wound up a single Mom early in my life. Not what I had planned. I was scared that I would not be accepted any longer at my church and what friends and family would stick by me. I leaned on God, my family, and church family. I was fortunate to have been provided these supports and I truly believe God was intervening for me. I was nurtured by a pastor that taught me how to be responsible and still a believer despite feeling not worthy.

Many of you don't know that I have always been a mizer in my life. I would make a pack of gum last forever. I have cut coupons since I was just a young person. My middle initial is C for Catherine but it should be Cheap. I have always wanted to save on everything I bought or did. So then comes along this beautiful baby girl and I needed to provide for another mouth. Thank goodness my parents helped provide me a home during this tough time. I knew I had to get through school to be able to provide a home for this precious baby. As I continued my journey through school, I would attend church and continue some wonderful friendships with my church family. They loved to see my little girl grow and bring joy to everyone around her. One Sunday, I sat in the pew and was presented with the challenge of tithing. I usually was so mad when this Sunday came around. I realize now that was God pushing me out of my comfort zone. Giving 10% seemed impossible at a time I needed every penny to provide for my child and prepare for living on our own. But I remember my pastor telling me to try it for 10 weeks and if you don't see God's blessings during that time, you can just stop. I thought, well that seemed reasonable. I tried it. I never stopped. I was amazed at how God blesses you when you are faithful and trust in him to provide. God later sent my wonderful husband, Bob to add more blessings in my life. I can't imagine The Lord helped me have confidence that I had never experienced before. He nudged me to do Mission trips that I never would have done before. I participated on committees that stretched my comfort level. With that being said, I have had experiences that I don't feel I would have done if it hadn't been for God's grace and blessings. I believe God saw my commitment to him and the church and my willingness to step out on faith.

This is just one story. Tithing is definitely a personal choice that should be prayed about. I would say "Try it. You might like it." Lent in a wonderful time to make sacrifices in our daily life and to reflect on God's ultimate gift. I would encourage you to consider it if you feel nudged by God.

With God's Blessings,
Sarah McCall