

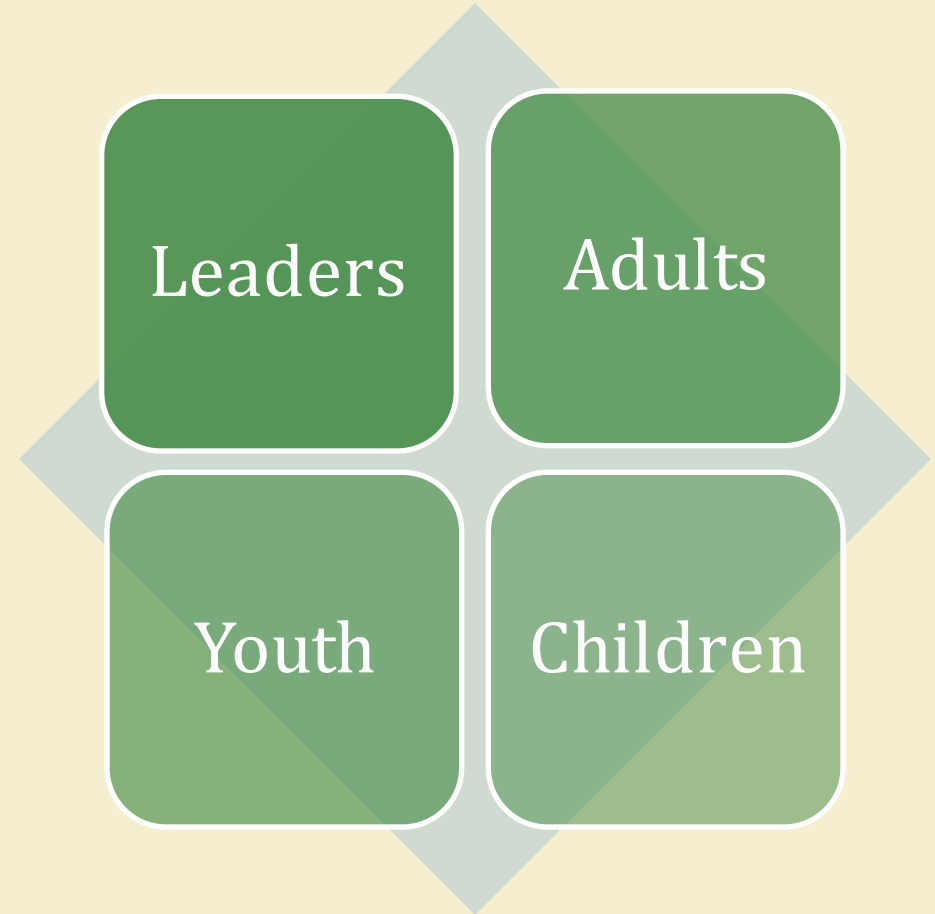
Year Round Stewardship



Why Year Round Stewardship

- Stewardship is what we do with all that God has given us, all the time – Not the “annual beg-a-thon”
- Takes stewardship out of the "annual occurrence" category and places it where it should be - right in front of us, all year round.
- Strengthens and supports members of the congregation in their knowledge and understanding of their roles as God’s stewards
- Develop and strengthen stewardship theology in the parish
- Changes the culture by changing the conversation in non threatening ways

Who Should Be Involved?



Clergy & Leadership

*Don't tell me you're trusting
God until you trust Him with
your pocketbook.*

J. Vernon McGee

“It is difficult for leaders to lead where they have never gone or are afraid to venture”

Melvin Amerson

- **Preach it, Preacher!**
- **Vestry Stewardship Statement**

We believe God is the source of all gifts, spiritual and material. Our faithful response, in gratitude, is to be givers and creators ourselves. While we strive to be good stewards of all God's gifts to us, we believe that the way we use our money reflects the state of our spiritual lives.

We commit to follow Christ in community. In prayerful witness to our faith, each of us is already tithing or is committed to working towards the tithe.

Our experience is that joyful giving results in spiritual growth. ***We invite*** the parish to join us in this commitment to deepening our faith.

“It is difficult for leaders to lead where they have never gone or are afraid to venture”

Melvin Amerson

- **Monthly Article in Newsletter**

- Stewardship, the word, comes from the Old English term sty-ward and reflects the practice of appointing reliable workers to be wardens of the pig sty; thus, sty-wards. ***“From The Pig’s Sty”***

- **Sunday Bulletin**

- Financial Updates
- Quotes
- Cartoons

- **Thank You Notes**



Children

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Children's Giving Envelopes

MY GIFT TO GOD

☐ I helped someone

☐ My good deed for this week _____

☐ I said my prayers

☐ This week I am giving to God \$ _____

Start by doing what's Necessary, then what's Possible, and suddenly you are doing the Impossible.

-- St. Francis of Assisi

Name: _____ Age: _____

St. Francis Episcopal Church • 432 Forest Hill Road • Macon, Georgia 31210 • (478) 477-4616



Candy Tithe



Youth

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



DO LENT GENEROUSLY

40 Days, 40 Acts of Generosity:
40 days of giving back, doing good
and living generously



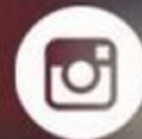
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DO LENT GENEROUSLY

Everyone

*Now is our time to **go**. To go into the world to share the good news of God and Jesus Christ. To go into the world and help to be agents and instruments of God's reconciliation. To go into the world, let the world know that there is a God who loves us, a God who will not let us go, and that that love can set us all free.*

***This is the Jesus Movement**, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world.*

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Make Stewardship An Everyday Word

- Recycling – Thanks for practicing good stewardship!
- Incorporate the term into meetings – Instead of “What should we spend our budget on?” try “How can we be the best stewards of these resources?” or when considering a purchase, “Is this practicing good stewardship?”
- Province I: “Turn the lights off, for God’s sake” – Because reducing energy use is an act of stewardship both of God’s good creation and of financial resources.

FUN Events – Not Just Annual Campaign

Christmas in July

Choose an ornament with the Wish List item you would like to donate, fill out the contact information on the back, then hang your ornament on the tree and join us July 27th at 3:00 p.m. for pot-luck ice cream & Christmas cookies, melted snowball fights, a melted snow slide, and Christmas karaoke!



Year Round Stewardship Calendar

Based on work by the Diocese of West Texas

Spiritual Growth

Offers ways to deepen the spiritual lives of individuals and the congregation.

Ministry Spotlight

Focusing on a different ministry each month is a way of giving thanks for that ministry and raising awareness about it to attract new participants. Encourages saying “thank you”.

Financial Health

Offers focus on fiscal responsibility, can communicate leadership’s good stewardship of the congregations resources. Also offers many ways families can be intentional about how they manage their money including what they are saving and what percentage of their income they are giving away.

Outside Ourselves

In outreach we take our stewardship to the streets of our communities. These activities help people connect their pledge to ministry; in addition, communicating and celebrating the stories of meeting the needs of people are important motivators for personal stewardship decisions.

God’s Creation

How we care for the environment that God has entrusted to us is a mark of our faithfulness. This category can include caring for the environment in our communities, in our homes, and in our churches.



FEBRUARY

Season - The Season of Epiphany

The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies because it is determined by the date of Easter each year; the longest this season can be is nine weeks. During this time, our scripture readings focus on the revelation of Christ, including Christ's baptism, Christ as the light of the world, Christ's public ministry, and how to grow in our own spiritual journeys as the hands and feet of Christ.



Theme - Sacramental Life

The definition of a sacrament that may be most familiar to us may be from the Book of Common Prayer –“an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace”. God meets us in the sacraments in a profound and mysterious way. God works through the ordinary in our lives, some that man has made with gifts God has given us, like bread, wine, oil, and others that come straight from God like water and our hands. God makes Himself known in the most intimate way when we invite His presence and we promise to show up in receiving the sacraments. When we turn to God in faith, God transforms the ordinary into something incredibly sacred.

God is incarnationally present in the sacraments. God's presence is palpable and breathtaking. Sacraments are not something we deserve, but something that God gives us and promises to make Himself known through when we believe in Him. The two sacraments recognized by the church are **Eucharist** and **Baptism**, and the five sacramental rites are **Marriage, Confirmation, Ordination, Unction, and Reconciliation**.



Spiritual Growth - Christian Community

Find time to learn more about the two sacraments and the five sacramental rites recognized by the church, including what they mean and when applicable in the life of the community. A good resource is *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer (Revised Edition)*, Leonel L. Mitchell.

Adult Formation Class – Create an Adult Formation class or a Wednesday night program to learn more about the sacraments and sacramental rites.

Sunday Bulletin – Include one or two facts about the Eucharist in the Sunday bulletin. For example “Holy Water is in the baptismal font near the entrance of the church. Some choose to dip a finger in and make the sign of the Cross with water when entering or leaving a church. This ritual is to remind you of your Baptism and Confirmation in which you were signed with the sign of the Cross.” More examples available at <http://www.holycross-weare.org/2009/03/17/body-language-in-worship/>

Instructed Eucharist Periodically it might be helpful to devote one of the Sunday Eucharists to an instructed Eucharist. You can either provide a written explanation for each part of the service in the order of service encouraging the congregation to read as they participate in the liturgy or have a narrator instruct during the service. More information available at <http://www.instructedeucharist.org>.

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Ministry Spotlight - Church Staff and Ministry Team Leaders

Take time to recognize your church staff and ministry team leaders, which may include volunteers as well as paid employees. Ideas include recognizing them during a morning service, small gifts, or soliciting parishioners to write appreciation cards to staff.

Get to know staff by finding out what their favorite things are: favorite cookie or candy, favorite songs, favorite place to eat, favorite movie, favorite author, interests and hobbies. Burn a CD of their favorite songs; put together a movie basket with candy, popcorn, favorite movie or movie gift certificate. Deliver a special lunch or breakfast to staff members. Work with other parishioners to organize staff appreciation week and deliver small treats to the staff each day.



Financial Health - Debt Management

Every year, millions of Americans go overboard at Christmas. After the holidays are over, they quickly realize just how much overspending they did. For some people, this is a time to panic and wonder how they'll ever recover. Consider offering a debt management class and/or providing resources to help with debt.

Thrivent Financial – Thrivent creates financial strategies that help Christians be wise with money and live generously. They offer a broad range of financial products and services, including life insurance, annuities and mutual funds, plus tailored guidance from financial representatives nationwide. For more than a century, they've helped their member-owners show God's love to others by being good stewards of the gifts they've been given. More information at <https://www.thrivent.com/financial-coaching/resources/tools.html>

Christian Credit Counselors – A national non-profit organization that was created to help individuals and families regain control of their finances through the use of educational tools, credit counseling and other resources. Visit <http://www.christiancreditcounselors.org/> for more information.

Budgeting resources – <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/resources/money-resources>

Children and Youth money resources – <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/resources/children-and-youth>

The Christian financial planning courses below challenge participants to examine money in the context of their Christian Faith. The courses focus on eliminating personal debt, building savings, and learning to use money in healthy ways. That includes putting God first financially. Rather than asking, "How much of my money should I give to God?" we learn to ask, "How much of God's money should I keep for myself?"

Financial Peace University – Visit <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locate-class/> for a class in your area.

The Good \$ense Budget Course was developed by Willow Creek Association who believe deeply that stewardship of financial resources lies at the heart of Christian discipleship. Learn more at their website: <http://www.goodsenseministry.com/>

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Reaching Out To The Exiled

We are all familiar with the story of how Moses and the Israelites were forced into exile. Although we may want to believe exiles are a thing of the past, the reality is that there are exiles among us today. There are foreign exiles, refugees forced to leave their homeland because of war, violence, or poverty; and domestic exiles, those forced to leave their homes because of sex trafficking, gender identity, sexual orientation, or HIV status. We, as Christians, are called to welcome the exile. Discover ways your community can reach out to those who are separated from their homes and families.

Georgia Cares – Georgia Cares (formerly Georgia Care Connection Office) is the single, statewide coordinating non-profit agency connecting services and treatment care for child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Georgia Cares serves any and all youth who have been victimized in the state of Georgia. We believe that youth can be restored to safety, health and wellbeing when they are recognized as victims of sexual abuse and supported with appropriate treatment. Our mission is to ensure that child sex trafficking victims receive quality care and services in the state of Georgia. It is our vision that child sex trafficking is one day eradicated, and survivors are restored and thriving with the help of trauma-informed treatment. Find out more information about how you can help at <http://www.gacares.org/>

Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking – The Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta will serve as a body of concerned lay and clergy representatives who will provide resources to, network with, and propose appropriate actions and/or legislation for parishes and other organizations to end the sex trafficking of minors. Visit the Diocese of Atlanta's Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking website at <https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Parish-Support/human-trafficking-commission/under-construction-commission-on-domestic-minor-sex-trafficking/> for up to date information and DMST resources.

Middle Georgia Aids Network – Middle Georgia Aids Network provides support for those who are HIV+ in Middle Georgia. For more information, contact Susan Locke at 844locke@cox.net

Integrity – Integrity is a nonprofit organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender [LGBT] Episcopalians and our straight friends. Since our founding by Dr. Louie Crew in rural Georgia in 1974, Integrity has been the leading grassroots voice for the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the Episcopal Church and our equal access to its rites. For more information visit <http://www.integrityusa.org/>

Diocese of Atlanta LGBT Ministries – For information about LGBT Ministries within the diocese, visit <https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/LGBTMinistries/>

The South Georgia Farmworker Project Community Partners - The SGFHP is a program from Emory University that uses a mobile outreach model to provide free out-patient care to migrant and seasonal farm workers and their dependents southern Georgia counties. In addition to medical care, SGFHP with the help of Community Partners, also provides water bottles, socks, clothes, and goodie bags. "People doing good just because and only because they choose to, that's what's so terrific about this Project, it touches every single body involved in such a moving way that even on those long days momentum propels you to continue doing the work that brought you to Emory in the first place." To find out how you can become a Community Partner, visit http://med.emory.edu/pa/about_us/community_service/farm_worker/partners.html

Episcopal Farmworker Ministry – EFwM responds to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families, and actively supports opportunities for them to become self-directive. We seek to minister to farmworkers in three principal ways: through direct services; through development and support of programs that work towards the empowerment of farmworkers; by encouraging leadership development, advocacy, and education aimed toward a systematic change of agricultural policy at local and state levels. Visit <https://episcopalfarmworkerministry.org/> for more information.

New American Pathways – New American Pathways, our local affiliate of the Episcopal Migration Ministries, provides approximately 4,000 refugees per year with the necessary tools to rebuild their lives and achieve long-term success. Our specially designed programs provide proven pathways for refugees and other immigrants to realize their full potential and dreams while becoming productive, contributing members of Georgia's communities. Visit <http://newamericanpathways.org/volunteer/> for more information about volunteer opportunities.

World Relief Atlanta – At World Relief Atlanta, we consider the refugees in our community some of the most vulnerable among us. We work to meet their need by providing compassionate and holistic care from the moment they arrive at the airport through their journey to self-sufficiency. We hope to engage refugees with the local Church by connecting refugee families to American friends through our volunteer services. Our volunteers are a vital component of the resettlement process as they provide ongoing cultural orientation to America, transportation for various needs, but most importantly, friendship. If you are interested in learning about how to become a volunteer with a refugee family, visit <http://worldreliefatlanta.org/volunteer>

Immigration Advocates – Immigration Advocates provides resources for nonprofit advocates, organizers and service providers including a list of National Immigration Legal Services. More information at <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/search?state=GA>

Mark Jones – Mark Jones is a professor at Mercer Law School who teaches Immigration Law. Immigration laws are changing rapidly with the new administration, causing confusion and anxiety. As a guest speaker, Mark provides up to date information about the legal realities for immigrants as well as how your church can help. Contact Mark at 478-301-2636 or by email at jones_ml@law.mercer.edu



God's Creation - Recycling

Recycling should be encouraged by placing clearly marked containers throughout your facilities. If your recycling service permits commingling, place blue containers next to every trashcan. If not, create a recycling area in an easy to access area plus specific containers in certain areas (i.e., paper recycling container by copy machine).

Free garage giveaway – a giant garage sale where nothing is priced and every item is free for the taking. The only requirement is each shopper has to be able to carry his load. The "sale" is about need, not greed, and gives us a way to love our neighbors, which is what Jesus calls us to do with abundance. Begin planning in February for a March event. Organize one with your congregation, your neighborhood or consider an ecumenical event. A free garage giveaway is a great way to recycle, while also helping those in need.

Find out if a local school is recycling or help them get a program started. The following resource gives cash for phones/PDAs and inkjet cartridges. <http://www.phoneraiser.com/>

Start a program that earns rewards for recycling with **Terracycle** <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>

The following suggestions are from the Green Church Association.

Create a Green Team – If you do not already have a Green Ministry, create a ministry team with people who are interested in assuming a leadership role at your church to take responsibility for this green effort from beginning to end. They will be in charge of recruiting and assembling a team of volunteers to create a plan for the recycling program, delegate responsibilities and see the plan through.

Electronics – We encourage churches to make it standard practice to recycle electronics like computers rather than throwing them in the trash. This not only saves energy and landfill space, but it also keeps the more than 100 toxic chemicals found in electronics from seeping into our soil and water. You can contract with an independent e-recycling service. Yet, we encourage you to explore what free services are available. For example, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, and Apple have free recycling programs for their products. A great source for a list of companies with similar programs can be found <http://mygreenelectronics.org/>

Battery Recycling – Most of us are familiar with the practice of recycling lead-acid automotive batteries. Due to widespread legal mandates, about 90% of these batteries are recycled in the U.S. The recycling rates of other batteries is much lower. This results in a lot of heavy metals and other toxic chemicals going to landfills. We encourage all churches to establish a battery-recycling program. One great resource for locating recycling centers is to go to <http://earth911.com/> and search by entering batteries and your zip code.

Lamps – Standard fluorescent lamps and CFLs save energy, yet they contain mercury. We need to do all that we can to avoid mercury contamination of our land and water. We encourage churches to establish a lamp recycling program. Some provide local pickup. Others, provide boxes used to ship used lamps. <http://www.lamprecycle.org/> offers a way to search for local vendors.

Ink and Toner Cartridges – We encourage you to recycle empty ink and toner cartridges. You can take advantage of bins at local office supply stores. Some vendors offer programs in which you mail back used cartridges and they send you reconditioned replacement cartridges.

Construction Recycling – An enormous amount of waste is generated through construction. A significant portion of this waste can be reused or recycled. We encourage you to include recycling mandates in any construction contracts you sign.

Composting – One great practice that we acknowledge is not always practical in all settings is to compost items like food. A great way to deal with the issue of unpleasant smell is to use Red Wiggler Worms to break down the trash. There are examples of large office buildings that use large bins of worms for high volume composting.

Evaluating Your Recycling Efforts – A good goal for most churches is to seek to recycle at least 50% of your trash. There is great power in setting goals and measuring achievement. With recycling, it is ideal when your service provider uses trucks that weigh each pickup and provide you with the data. Some large cities require this from their vendors, yet this practice is still relatively rare.

The most practical way to evaluate recycling achievements is usually to conduct a waste audit. This involves sorting and weighing trash and recycling from one day. You can record (by weight or volume) the quantity of recyclable materials that made it into the recycling bins versus the standard trash bins. We have seen where it was written into a contract with a cleaning contractor to conduct a waste audit once a year.

When you make the effort to conduct a waste audit, make sure you communicate this information to promote action. If you find that paper recycling is going well, but aluminum can recycling is not, strategize on ways to achieve improvement.

Donate Used Items – Reuse can be better stewardship than recycling. Before recycling products, make sure you have considered if they might still have a useful function in another setting.

February Worksheet

Season: The Season of Epiphany

The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies because it is determined by the date of Easter each year; the longest this season can be is nine weeks. During this time, our scripture readings focus on the revelation of Christ, including Christ's baptism, Christ as the light of the world, Christ's public ministry, and how to grow in our own spiritual journeys as the hands and feet of Christ.



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Spiritual Growth – Christian Community

Ministry Spotlight on Staff and Team Leaders

Financial Health – Debt Management

Reach out to the Exiled

God's Creation – Recycling

Tips for Execution

- Complete each of the five areas on the worksheets
 - Start with 5 options.
 - Execute as many as you can do well
 - Ministry Spotlight takes *minimal* time
- Get other ministries involved
 - **Spiritual Growth** – Partner with Worship Committee and/or Adult Christian Formation Committee
 - **Outside Ourselves** – Partner with Outreach
 - **God's Creation** – Partner with Green Team/Creation Keepers

Group Activity: Develop Your Year Round Stewardship Plan

- Senior Wardens – Assign each month
- Complete your assigned month's worksheet with a plan for each of the five areas
- Junior Wardens – Collect completed worksheets
- As a leadership body - Review each month's plans, elicit feedback, and make any necessary changes.
- **Be creative!**

Questions?
Thoughts?
Comments?

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