

Commission on Stewardship Report to 109th Annual Council

The Commission on Stewardship began the past year with the guidance and support of Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey. We appreciate his encouragement and partnership, and are looking forward to a long, productive ministry together.

This year Bishop Wright thanked Mal Underwood for his many years of service as the Chair of the Commission and appointed Tammy Pallot as the new chair. The Commission would not be what it is today without Mal's devoted service and enthusiasm. We are eternally grateful to him for his contribution to this ministry and very glad that he agreed to continue to serve on the Commission as a consultant.

In 2015, the members of the Commission on Stewardship were Tammy Pallot (St. Francis, Macon), Deacon Juan Sandoval (Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta), Julia Gable (Holy Trinity, Decatur), Roger Sherrard (St. Peter & St. Paul, Marietta), Sarah Matthews (St. Luke's, Atlanta), the Rev. Frank Baltz (Marietta), Bill Monk (Sandy Springs), the Rev. Jamie Stutler (St. Clements, Canton), Amy Amason (Grace-Calvary, Clarkesville), and ex-officio members Karl Woltersdorf (Christ Church, Norcross) and Archdeacon Charles Gearing (St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta).

Each member of the Commission also serves as a Stewardship Consultant throughout the diocese, with the exception of Amy Amason, who serves as the Planned Giving Consultant. We were pleased this year to add the Rev. Sarah Fisher (St. Patrick's, Dunwoody) to our list of Stewardship Consultants.

One new focus this year has been on the exploration of marketing as a means to expand our ministry. We want to ensure that every parish knows that we are here and available to assist with the development and execution of their stewardship program. We hope to someday have served in every parish throughout the Diocese of Atlanta.

In 2015 we were honored to serve as consultants and guest leaders at more than 10 parishes. We served as guest leaders for New Consecration Sunday, guest speakers for parish-wide events, and guest preachers for Stewardship Sundays. We had a wonderful experience with each parish this year, but we want to acknowledge the spectacular work by the people of St. Nicholas in Hamilton. On Consecration Sunday 84% of the pledges they received had increased their giving from last year! Thanks be to God!

In addition to serving at individual parishes, we offer a stewardship workshop in the spring and one in the fall for clergy and lay stewardship leaders. These workshops provide scripture-based and practical training for stewardship team members as well as other church leaders. Workshop leaders present ideas on scriptural building blocks of Christian stewardship; resources for organizing your annual stewardship program; designs for tailoring stewardship communications to generational groups; reasons for giving; a framework for starting a year-round stewardship program; and ways to start holy stewardship conversations in your parish.

There is never a fee to attend a workshop, and we provide lunch for all participants. We were thrilled to have 39 people participate in our August workshop! Historically, we have held workshops at the Cathedral of St. Philip. We realize the diocese covers a large area geographically. Therefore, in an attempt to "draw the circle wider", in the upcoming year we will hold one workshop at the Cathedral and at least one at a parish outside of the Atlanta area. We are hoping to include people who might find it difficult to travel to the Cathedral and return home in one day. If you would like to host a workshop or if you have any questions, please contact Tammy Pallot at tammypallot@gmail.com.

In May we represented the Diocese of Atlanta at the Annual Conference for The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) in Texas. We are very proud to announce that our own Sarah Fisher has been elected as the Secretary/Treasurer on the TENS Board of Directors. Attending this conference provides an opportunity for us to share ideas and make connections with people throughout the country. This year we returned renewed and excited to continue the important work of this ministry.

The website for The Episcopal Network for Stewardship ([TENS.org](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Stewardship/TENS/)) is a wonderful resource and has additional resources available to its members, including many of the presentations from the conference. We are grateful to the Diocese of Atlanta for continuing to demonstrate its belief in the importance of the spiritual practice of stewardship and its desire to support stewardship in our parishes by purchasing a membership to TENS for every parish in the diocese. The required log-on information is available on the Diocese of Atlanta website at <http://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Stewardship/TENS/>.

Although we work with, and encourage the development of, a year-round stewardship program, the fall is our most active time. We are available to serve as consultants and guest leaders whenever needed. We encourage clergy and lay leaders to utilize the Commission on Stewardship as one of the many valuable resources available to them.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tammy Pallot, Chair
(St. Francis, Macon)