

## **Commission on Stewardship Report to the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Council**

The Commission on Stewardship serves under the guidance and leadership of Canon John Thompson-Quartey and consists of two priests, one deacon, and four laities. In 2016, the members of the Commission of Stewardship were Tammy Pallot, Chair (St. Francis, Macon), Mal Underwood (Ascension, Cartersville), Dcn. Juan Sandoval (Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta), Julia Gable (Holy Trinity, Decatur), Rev. Frank Baltz (Marietta), Bill Monk (Sandy Springs), Rev. Sarah Fisher (St. Patrick, Dunwoody), and ex-officio members Karl Woltersdorf (Christ Church, Norcross) and Archdeacon Charles Gearing (St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta). In addition, Lindsey Hardegree (Executive Director of Episcopal Charities Foundation) has recently begun working with the Commission.

Each member of the Commission serves throughout the diocese and beyond as guest leaders for annual stewardship campaigns, vestry and leadership workshops/retreats, and as a general stewardship resource for parish leaders, with the exception of Lindsey Hardegree, who serves as the Planned Giving Consultant through her work with the Episcopal Charities Foundation.

The Commission also offers free scripture-based, practical training events for clergy and lay stewardship leaders. These workshops include the scriptural building blocks of Christian stewardship, resources for organizing the 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 the parish. These workshops have historically been offered twice a year at the Cathedral of St. Philip. Due to the large geographical area of the diocese, as an attempt to “draw the circle wider”, in 2016 we implemented the practice of holding one workshop at the Cathedral and at least one at a parish outside of the Atlanta area. This year, we were pleased to have 13 people attend the April workshop at St. Francis in Macon and 49 people attend the August workshop at the Cathedral of St. Philip.

In June we represented the Diocese of Atlanta at the Annual Conference for The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) in Pasadena, California. We are very proud to announce that our own Rev. Sarah Fisher is now the Vice-President of the TENS Board of Directors. Attending this conference provides an opportunity for to share ideas and make connections with people throughout the country.

In addition to the annual conference, the website for The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS.org) is a wonderful resource, including many of the presentations from the annual 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 logon information is available on the Diocese of Atlanta website at [www.episcopalatlanta.org/Stewardship/TENS/](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Stewardship/TENS/).

After attending Project Resource (a 3-day workshop sponsored by the College for Bishops) in June, Bishop Wright challenged the Canon for Ministry, the Canon for Christian Enterprise, the

Executive Director of the Episcopal Charities Foundation, and the Commission on Stewardship to adapt the Project Resource materials for the Diocese of Atlanta. The challenge was accepted and “The Circle of Stewardship” initiative began to emerge with the following mission: *To mobilize clergy and lay leaders to develop stewardship resources, enabling parishes to worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually.*

We are currently in the process of developing the curriculum and refining the program. Workshops are being designed for attendance by the clergy and four lay leaders from each participating parish. We are also in the process of designing an online component. We anticipate rolling out the program to 5 pilot churches by December 2016. Our goal is for most parishes in the diocese to participate in the program resulting in a 30% increase in membership, a 30% increase in giving, and \$10M in Planned Giving by 2021. This is an ambitious goal which will require a great deal of work and resources. We ask for you to hold The Circle of Stewardship initiative in your prayers as we enter this exciting phase of our ministry together.

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